

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## OPINION METER This week's poll:

Do you support a plan to create a public transportation system on Saipan?

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White House calls its draft immigration plan a backup. ➤ PAGE 14

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Pope Benedict XVI blesses tens of thousands of cheering people. ➤ PAGE 16

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Mindy McCready has died in Arkansas in an apparent suicide. ➤ PAGE 19

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## HealthTech advice ignored outright

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After spending a large amount for a much-needed assessment of the public hospital, it was learned that the experts' report and recommendations are not being followed and were outright ignored.

### » Board forms special panel to review experts' study

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta and COO Esther Muña admitted this to the board Friday, saying the action was taken at the instruction of board chair



Babauta

Joaquin Torres.

"You came to my office and instructed me not to follow the recommendations of HealthTech," Muña told the chairman last Friday after the latter asked how far the management is doing in implementing the experts' recommendations, particularly in the area of revenue cycle

See ADVICE on Page 4

## Rota High, Manta Ray win drill competition

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Two battalions were the big winners in this year's Public School System's Interisland Drill Competition, in the process earning slots to represent the Commonwealth at the nationals in Kentucky this April.

### » Cadets advance to national contest in Kentucky

Rota High School and Saipan Southern High School JROTC teams were the overall champions in the rigorous competition Saturday at Marianas High School.

Rota High School cadets competed and won in all four events against counterparts from Tinian High School. The group bested opponents in rank inspection, color guard, unarmed drill, and fancy drill unarmed exhibition.

According to retired Sgt. Maj. Her See COMPETITION on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The cadets of the Rota High School Battalion pose for a group photo after winning last Saturday's Public School System Interisland Drill Competition. The team won in four events. The group, together with another team from Saipan Southern High School, will represent the CNMI at the national drill competition in Kentucky on April 6.

## IMPEACHMENT RULES 1 TO 26

## Senate won't entertain bid to dismiss sufficiency of charges

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Senators will not be entertaining any motion to dismiss or challenge the sufficiency of the articles of impeachment against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is facing an unprecedented Senate trial in March after the House impeached him last week on

18 charges of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

This is one of the "26 rules" contained in the 20-page Senate Impeachment Rules that senators adopted on Tinian Friday night, a copy of which was obtained only yesterday.

This will be the first impeachment trial of a governor in the history of the CNMI and any U.S. insular area.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is expected to issue

a writ of summons to the governor as early as today.

### » Four House members as prosecutors, plus 2 in-house counsels

The writ of summons recites the articles of impeachment, notifying him to file his appearance with the Senate, personally with or through counsel at a specified day and time, file his answer to the articles by a specific time, and abide by the Senate's orders and judgments.

The Senate will appoint a judge to See SENATE on Page 4

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# Local

## 'NMC report inaccurately represents quality of college'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The accreditation team that evaluated the Northern Marianas College bared in a 77-page report that the institution's self-report gave an inaccurate picture of the quality of the college, resulting in the institution earning the most severe sanction of show-cause status.

"The quality of the writing of the self-evaluation report did not accurately represent the

quality of the college. In some cases the evaluation sub-sections were, in effect, additional description rather than an analysis of the degree to which the college met the given standard," said team chair Gari Browning, Ph.D., president/superintendent of the Ohlone Community College District.

The comprehensive report on NMC is now posted in the college's website, [www.nmc-net.edu/](http://www.nmc-net.edu/).

Browning led the evaluation

team during the four-day visit last October. Team members included Jim Keller, Kathy Mendelsohn, Gil Rodriguez, Jeff Shimizu, Chui Tsang, Christopher Villa, Roger Welt, and Eddie West.

According to the report, NMC's "Action Improvement Plans" did not always logically follow from the self-evaluations. It indicated that a large number of people who worked on the report are no longer with NMC.

Most significantly, the report added, the self-evaluation did not address the recommendations from the most recent visit of the team, so overall "the self-report of NMC did not accurately disclose the impressive amount and quality of the work the college had done to address the recommendations."

Browning, meantime, acknowledged that NMC has satisfied the commission recommendations and met eligibility requirements and standards in nearly all cases, although resolutions to some were just in the nick of time. Among the items deemed resolved are the following recommendations:

■ In 2012, NMC satisfied the standards for integrated planning, financial integrity, regents' role and conduct, chief financial officer, and policy review.

■ In 2011, the college rectified concerns on NMC's autonomy,

following commission policies, hiring of a CEO and administrative staff, broad-based planning, and faculty professionalism.

■ In 2009, NMC marked as resolved its planning process and evaluation of programs. It was in 2008 when NMC rectified student learning outcomes, employee evaluation, facilities, and sufficient staff. In 2007, the college addressed concerns on BOR training and suspension of distance education on Tinian and Rota.

In its decision last week, the Accreditation Committee for Colleges and Junior Colleges ordered NMC to submit by Oct. 15 a show-cause report and a closure report. These reports will be followed by a visit of commission representatives for verification.

NMC has been accredited by the ACCJC since 1985 and undergoes periodic evaluations and commission visits.

The college was placed either on show-cause or continued show-cause status in 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2013.

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The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on April 19-21, 2013, at the newly renovated Kanoa Resort Saipan. The cost is \$100 per couple. Hurry, we reserve space for only 25 couples!

For further information or a registration form, contact Spring 2013 Weekend Coordinators John and Michelle Tagabuel at 287-3264 or [mitagabuel@gmail.com](mailto:mitagabuel@gmail.com); Spring 2013 Weekend Co-Coordinator Joe and Reyna Saures at 483-4646 or [reynasaures@gmail.com](mailto:reynasaures@gmail.com); Spring 2013 Registration Couple Joe and Linda Muña at 48287-7943 or [lbmun@gmail.com](mailto:lbmun@gmail.com).

You may also contact the Ecclesial Team/Executive Board member Fr. Ike Ayuyu at 256-4568 or [ikeayuyu@gmail.com](mailto:ikeayuyu@gmail.com); or Charles and Cathy Cepeda at 483-7000 or [csablancepeda@gmail.com](mailto:csablancepeda@gmail.com). (PR)

## High surf until Wednesday

The Emergency Management Office advised yesterday that its small craft and high surf advisories will remain in effect until 6pm Wednesday.

Fresh to strong trade winds will maintain conditions hazardous to small craft through at least Tuesday, it said.

"Northeast winds of 20 to 25 knots with frequent gusts to 30 knots and occasional gusts to 35 knots will continue Tuesday. Combined seas of 12 to 14 feet on Tuesday will begin to subside by Wednesday," EMO said.

Large swell and wind waves from the east and north will cause hazardous surf for the next few days.

Along north facing reefs, expect hazardous surf of 7 to 10 feet

today. Higher surf of up to 12 feet is possible at some locations.

Along east facing reefs, hazardous surf of 12 to 14 feet is expected today. Surf should begin to subside by tonight and fall below hazardous levels by Wednesday night.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets.

The public is advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and facing reefs as rip currents are life threatening. (EMO)

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Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.



# Gas at \$6.099 to \$6.90 a gallon on Rota, Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Rota still has the dubious distinction of having the highest prices of gasoline on U.S. soil with regular unleaded gasoline costing \$6.15 a gallon and diesel at \$6.90 a gallon as of yesterday, followed by its sister islands of Tinian and then Saipan, mostly because of their isolation and corresponding transportation costs as well as supply and de-

mand, among other factors.

Average gas price in the U.S. mainland was \$3.686 as of Sunday.

On Saipan, pump prices also hit a record high last week with regular unleaded gasoline reaching \$5.209 a gallon, super/premium unleaded gasoline at \$5.529 a gallon, and diesel at \$5.519 a gallon.

If Saipan motorists think they've got it so bad, Rota and Tinian have them worst.

At Mobil Sasanaya filling station on Rota, regular unleaded gasoline is \$6.15 a gallon, while diesel is \$6.90 a gallon following last week's 10-cent a gallon increase.

Its competitor, Luta Gas, also sells regular unleaded gasoline at \$6.15 a gallon.

"On Rota, gas prices have long been higher than the CNMI minimum wage. Instead of spending on food, your money goes more on buying gas for you to go to work. It's Lent, so we could consider it fasting when we don't have enough money to buy food anyway," a Rota resident told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. She added that prices of all consumer goods on the island are much higher than

those on Saipan and Tinian.

The CNMI's minimum wage is currently \$5.55 an hour.

The Rota mother said that when regular shipment of goods doesn't reach Rota on time because of transportation issues, she is forced to buy a 20-lb. sack of rice for \$28.95 and stretch her hard-earned dollars to pay for other necessities such as utility services and gas.

Another employee on Rota said with the soaring prices of gasoline, it's a relief that he walks to and from work, which is only two minutes away from where he lives.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately said yesterday that Rota residents are "suffering too much" from high gas

prices that are much higher than most government and private sector wages.

"In the 17th Legislature, we were communicating with Mobil, and asked them whether Mobil can ship directly from Guam to Rota if that is not yet the case," she said. Rota is nearer Guam, a much larger market, compared to the distance between Guam and Saipan.

On Tinian, the pump price of regular unleaded gasoline is \$6.099 a gallon at Tinian Fuel Services Inc. filling station. Their diesel is \$6.399 a gallon.

Another Tinian filling station, SN Five, sells regular unleaded gasoline at \$6.199 a gallon and diesel at \$6.399 a gallon.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-

Rota) said yesterday that island residents have learned to cope with the high gas prices including "reducing their errands, less *pashando* and buying groceries before heading or after work."

National media outlets are reporting that hedge funds, commodity pools and other high-roller investors have thrown close to \$12.5 billion into a collective bet that gasoline prices will rise, and some analysts say it's one reason why gasoline prices are at a record for this date in the United States.

Since the start of the year, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands and Shell Marianas have raised pump prices in the CNMI twice by 10 cents each or a total of 20 cents a gallon.

## NMI not in White House's proposed immigration bill

### ► Kilili says work under-way to include NMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The leaked White House-proposed immigration bill calling for undocumented immigrants to become permanent residents after eight years makes no mention of the CNMI and its long-term, legal nonresident workers, but Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said efforts are continuing "to reach out to House and Senate offices, and the White House, with our own particular proposal for the Northern Mariana Islands."

"The draft plan being circulated that we are aware of outlines the principles that President Obama has made in previous public statements including a path to citizenship, criminal background check, back taxes, among others," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said it is his understand-

ing that the administration continues to work with Congress and will only draft legislation if Congress does not produce a bill in the near future.

Sablan separately cautioned anyone against believing those who have claimed knowing the contents of any comprehensive immigration bill, nor doing anything detrimental to their own status.

The delegate was responding to stories of how some long-term workers would consider being undocumented aliens just so they can be given pathway to U.S. citizenship under the Obama plan. Sablan said this will hurt rather than help the cause of legal, long-term aliens' status.

Sablan has been working on legislative language that he wants included once a bill is written, either in the Senate or the House, or from the Administration, "that will address the status of legal and documented third-country nationals here in the Northern Mariana Islands."

This comes at a time when the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program is ending on Dec. 31, 2014.

## AG to lawmaker: No cease and desist order for GPPC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas has not granted Rep. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) request to issue a cease and desist order against GPPC Inc. for docking its ship at Rota East Harbor, saying it is the Commonwealth Ports Authority that regulates ports in the CNMI.

San Nicolas, however, said that Santos is correct in asserting that Department of Public Lands' Ray Salas and the rest of DPL have no authority to allow GPPC to dock its ship at Rota East Harbor for a one-time "dry run."

"...the Office of the Attorney General has contacted the Department of Public Lands, and no such authorization to use the Rota East Harbor, or any other port, will emanate from the De-

partment of Public Lands in the future," San Nicolas told Santos in a Feb. 12 response to the lawmaker's Feb. 8 letter.

Santos, chair of the four-member Rota Legislative Delegation, said GPPC's use of Rota East Harbor without CPA authorization "is in direct violation of the CNMI Code, which provides that CPA has the authority to enforce full control of all ports of entry in the CNMI."

San Nicolas seconded this in his response letter.

"Therefore, CPA, and not DPL, is the entity statutorily charged with authorizing a vessel to use the Rota East Harbor. In conclusion, I encourage you to contact [CPA] about this matter. The CPA will be able to assist you in ensuring that the Rota East Harbor is not improperly used in the future," San Nicolas told Santos.

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## Passport renewals primary concern of Filipino workers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**TINIAN**—Filipinos on Tinian are awaiting the mobile consular services to be conducted on island within 2013

## UOG students win national AGA competition for 2nd straight year



From left, Dr. Relmond Van Daniker, CPA (AGA executive director), Russell Bala-an, Angeline Nieto, Dr. Doreen Crisostomo (faculty adviser), Cindelle Sazon, Steven Delgado, and Evelyn Brown, CGFM-Retired (AGA national president). **uog**

A team of University of Guam accounting students has won the 2013 Association of Government Accountants' Annual Government Finance Case Challenge in Washington, D.C. for the second straight year. The team prepared a Citizen-Centric Report for Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia, which included a paper summarizing the criteria and justification the team used to decide what information to include and exclude in the report. The other finalist was a team from North Carolina State University.

UOG assistant professor of accounting Dr. Doreen Crisostomo organized the student team, which is composed of Cindelle Maye O. Sazon, Angeline Corpus Nieto, Steven Patrick Delgado, and Russell Jon Miranda Bala-an. The students were all in Crisostomo's fall 2012 Government Accounting class.

"We're happy that all our hard work paid off and that we were able to defend the title," said Bala-an. "It was very gratifying to represent the University of Guam at a national level."

The UOG team received scholar-

ships to attend the AGA National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 12-13, 2013, where they presented their finalized solutions before a panel of government leaders, corporate partners, and chief financial officers.

According to the AGA website, the Government Finance Case Challenge experience, "promises to challenge students' moral reasoning, raise their awareness of the importance of government accountability and open doors to a future career in government." **(UOG)**

Senators will vote on each of the 18 articles of impeachment.

If no article of impeachment is sustained by the Senate, then a judgment of acquittal shall be pronounced by the judge and entered upon the journal.

"A motion to reconsider the vote by which any article of impeachment is sustained or rejected is never in order," Rule 24 partly reads.

At all times while the Senate is sitting upon the trial of an impeachment, the Senate doors and galleries shall be kept open unless the Senate directs the doors to be closed while deliberating on its decisions.

Final action on the articles of impeachment may not be taken in executive session.

Senate Vice President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the special committee that drafted the rules, said the Senate will give the governor a speedy and fair trial.

Fitial, president of the Republican Party, is the first CNMI governor to be impeached. He is also the first in the U.S. insular area.

The governor, 68, was impeached on charges connected to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate to give him a massage at his private residence in the wee hours of the morning in January 2010, as well as the signing of a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Fitial was also impeached on charges related to the award of a sole-source ARRA management contract worth almost \$400,000, and for his failure to remove a former attorney general for violation of federal and local election laws, and conspiring with others to shield the same former AG, now a fugitive from justice, from being served a penal summons.

The governor is also facing impeachment trial for his failure to timely appoint officials for Senate consideration including a Supreme Court justice, commissioners, and department heads.

### Rules 1 to 26

Rules 1 to 26 give the Senate broad powers, including those provided in the NMI Constitution, during the impeachment trial.

Deleon Guerrero, the main author of the impeachment resolution, reiterated that it is going to be an uphill battle yet something that needs to be done on.

**Senate**

### From Page 1

serve as "presiding trial officer" in the impeachment trial.

The Senate will sit as an impeachment tribunal.

Four House members will serve as House managers—the ones who will prosecute the articles of impeachment.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) confirmed yesterday that the House managers include himself, Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), with the assistance of House counsels Joe Taijeron and John Cool.

The team spent their President's Day holiday yesterday preparing for the impeachment trial.

Deleon Guerrero, the main author of the impeachment resolution, reiterated that it is going to be an uphill battle yet something that needs to be done on.

### Rules 1 to 26

Rules 1 to 26 give the Senate broad powers, including those provided in the NMI Constitution, during the impeachment trial.

The Senate has the power to, among other things, subpoena witnesses and documents, compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, enforce obedience to its subpoenas, orders, mandates, writs and judgments, and punish by way of contempt and disobedience to its authority.

The impeachment rules also govern the conduct and decorum of each of the parties during the trial – the presiding judge, senators, the House managers, the governor, their respective counsels and staff.

The governor, for example, is prohibited from communicating with senators about the trial, and vice versa.

The House prosecutor and the governor and their staff and counsel are to

respect the authority of the Senate and the judge, as well as the dignity of the impeachment tribunal by strict adherence to codes of professionalism and professional attitude toward the senators, judge, opposing counsels, witnesses, and others in the Senate chamber.

Rule 14 is about sufficiency of articles of impeachment. It reads in full, "Any motion to dismiss or challenge the sufficiency of the articles of impeachment shall not be entertained by the Senate."

The impeachment trial will be from 9am to 5pm unless otherwise directed by the Senate president.

Rule 16, meanwhile, gives the House prosecutor up to 30 minutes to make an opening statement. The same is given to the governor or his counsel.

The House prosecutor will then proceed to present the case for impeachment one article at a time.

The Fitial administration remains mum on the composition of the governor's legal defense team, but it is believed it includes attorneys from and outside the CNMI. The administration has yet to respond to media inquiries about the matter.

If the governor fails to appear in person or by counsel on a day ordered by the Senate, or appears but fails to file an answer to the articles of impeachment, the trial proceeds nonetheless "as if Benigno R. Fitial had entered a plea of not guilty."

"If Benigno R. Fitial, or counsel on his behalf, enters a plea of guilty at any time or resigns, then, without further proceedings, judgment shall be entered removing Benigno R. Fitial from office as governor," Rule 11 partly reads.

### Voting

At least six "affirmative" votes or two-thirds of the nine-member Senate are needed to convict the governor and remove him from office on one or more of the impeachment articles.

by the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, the first since the closure of the Saipan Consulate General last year. the primary consular service that concerns Filipinos on Tinian.

"They are looking at taking a vacation so they want to bring their passports up to date," she said.

The Guam Consulate, however,

has yet to announce the schedule of their mobile consular services not only on Tinian but on Saipan and Rota as well.

In a statement, the Consulate cited the lack of passport equipment as the reason why they have not finalized the schedule for the mobile consular services in the Northern Marianas.

Esguerra, who regularly communicates with the Guam Consulate, said she informed the Filipino community on Tinian about this development.

"The Guam Consulate is working toward keeping their promise that they would conduct regular mobile services for Filipinos in the CNMI," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Esguerra noted that because of the anticipated vacation of a number of Filipinos, they would also want to secure an overseas employment certificate or OEC from the Guam Consulate before leaving for the Philippines.

An OEC ensures that a Filipino worker is properly documented and eligible to receive government protection and benefits. This document also guarantees a Filipino worker exemption from travel tax and airport terminal fee.

According to Esguerra, she always tries to explain to the community that the Guam Consulate does not process OEC because they do not have an officer of OWWA, an attached agency of the consulate.

"I advise our *kababayans* on Tinian to obtain a schedule for their CW visa interview prior to their vacation since they need that to get an OEC in the Philippines," added Esguerra.

The Guam Consulate earlier announced an "indicative" schedule for consular outreach services in the CNMI in 2013. But the schedule has yet to be confirmed pending availability of needed equipment.

## COMPETITION

*From Page 1*

man Atalig, the group from Rota will compete in the unarmed drill category at the nationals. The team, mostly 9th graders, is composed of 19 females and one male member. This will be the second time for the Rota battalion to compete in an off-island drill contest.

The group represented PSS last year at the 8th DBE Drill Competition in Long Beach, California.

Atalig attributed the team's success to three factors: the help it got from three former battalion commanders who helped prepare the team; the strong support of families who allowed students to practice on weekends, early mornings, and after school hours; and the support of the school administrator and faculty.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the

## ADVICE

*From Page 1*

management.

Torres denied giving any such instruction. "You must be dreaming," Torres told Muña, who quickly countered, "No, I am not."

Upon learning that the report is being ignored, board vice chair Pete Dela Cruz said it was "silly" for the management to put the study on a shelf and allow it to collect dust.

The Office of the Governor commissioned the HealthTech assessment early last year to find ways to improve the healthcare system in the Commonwealth. The study cost about \$150,000 and was funded by the Office of Insular Affairs.

On Friday, corporation board member Roy Rios stressed the need to follow the study's recommendations.

"In the beginning, we're all crying because we need an expert and finally we got HealthTech, but we don't want to listen to the expert's report! Are we lost here? We have to decide. HealthTech is nationally recognized so why can't we follow and go through with what is relevant in their report?" said a visibly disappointed Rios.

In the absence of a strategic plan for the hospital, "at least we have this HealthTech report that we can use as a guide," Rios added.

Babauta said if the board wishes it so, he is amenable to implementing the HealthTech report's recom-

mendations. However, he pointed out that there are "good and not so good" recommendations in the report, some of which were also countered by the team of medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that is currently on a 90-day mission at the hospital.

Babauta cited as an example the opposing recommendations of HealthTech and the USHHS team regarding the revenue cycle management administrator. HealthTech, he said, recommends contracting out the position to a professional as opposed to USHHS' suggestion to train an in-house personnel for the job.

According to Dr. Sharlene Osman, director for Medical Affairs, there's a need to go through the report and its recommendations. She volunteered to become part of a special review committee that will do the job.

Right away, Torres created a review committee and appointed Osman to chair the panel.

The HealthTech report had suggested bringing in a new turnaround management team that will operate the hospital for six months. This recommendation was opposed by CHCC, fearing it could lead to the hospital's privatization.

The Fitial administration, through press secretary Angel A. Demapan, earlier said that the HealthTech report and its recommendations is something that the administration cannot outright ignore despite the progress being made by the corporation.

# Software glitch blamed for inaccurate financials of CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials blamed Friday software incompatibility for its failure to come up with accurate financial data and reports for the organization's board of trustees.

Corporation COO Esther Muña, also the hospital's chief financial officer, disclosed that the hospital has been using an accounting system that is not suitable for the job, resulting in

problems in getting the "right numbers."

Muña and her team were on the hot seat during Friday's day-long board meeting after vice chair Pete Dela Cruz cited concerns over "inaccurate financial" reports.

According to Muña, the existing accounting system, which is linked to the Department of Finance, gives the hospital a limited latitude in making changes. "We have an accounting system that is not suited for this hospital

tal," Muña told the board.

CHC is now transitioning to an accrual accounting system. "We've been working with JDE consultant [since October 2012] to help us convert from recognizing expenses when invoices are entered only when funding is available to entering invoices as they are received and expenses were incurred," she said.

Part of this transition is the reorganization of the accounting department and cross-training of accounting personnel, she added.

To create a whole new system for CHC will cost about \$40

million, which Muña described as impossible to raise citing the deep financial constraints of the corporation.

Earlier, Muña failed to give "exact" figures for specific operational expenses of the hospital such as the pending housing allowance for employees.

"The reason we cannot get the exact figure is because we have to put them first in the system and we can't do that [under the existing system]," she explained, admitting that it will take time to fix the accounting system failures.

It was also learned Friday that CHC is experiencing problems in its cost-report processing after Muña discovered that unit managers stopped accumulating reports since the beginning of fiscal year 2012. The necessary accounting process, she discovered, were also eliminated by previous administrators.

According to Muña, these reports and processes are necessary. "If you don't have the data, you can't show Medicare the cost [for reimbursement]. These reports and processes are necessary [as well as the missing re-

ports]. So we have to enter them manually on the system again," she explained.

Another failure in the existing accounting system is its inaccurate reporting on the hospital's unpaid obligation to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. To address this, the adjustment needs to be done manually.

The board also learned Friday about the "untimely" posting of records in the medical supply office and unaccounted for or missing records.

Muña and her team were ordered to come up with a comprehensive report on the accounting situation at the board's next meeting on March 7.

## SDLLC: PPA has a guaranteed \$190.8M payment, plus costs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The contractor that inked a controversial sole-source power purchase agreement with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial admits that the PPA has a guaranteed payment of \$190.83 million, on top of additional costs.

Saipan Development LLC, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, said the further costs are necessary to secure a reliable power system for Saipan, but denied that they are undisclosed or has yet to be determined.

SDLLC was responding to the lawsuit filed by the Senate, Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan). The plaintiffs are suing Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and SDLLC over the allegedly illegal PPA.

The plaintiffs want the 25-year PPA declared unconstitutional and cancelled.

The plaintiffs allege that aside from \$190.8 million, the PPA and its related agreements also guarantee an undisclosed and yet-to-be determined millions of dollars in direct and indirect costs that the CNMI people will be forced to pay.

In SDLLC's response, Fitzgerald denied that the PPA was secret and denied that SDLLC is a mysterious company.

Fitzgerald said SDLLC was incorporated in the State of Delaware on March 22, 2012, but not registered with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations.

SDLLC admits that it was five days later, on March 27, 2012, that the CNMI executed a Power Plant Development and Management Agreement, by which SDLLC "was granted the exclusive right to develop a diesel generated electric power plant on Saipan."

SDLLC also admitted that Fitial for CUC and Buckingham for the Office of the Attorney General executed the PPA with SDLLC on Aug. 3, 2012.

As to allegations that there was no request for proposals issued for the project, Fitzgerald said the company "is without information or knowledge sufficient as to form a belief as to the truth or falsity."

Fitzgerald argued that the plaintiffs do not have standing to bring the lawsuit as there are no grounds for a taxpayer lawsuit and, therefore, no private right to action.

The lawyer said the plaintiffs failed to exhaust administrative remedies before filing the lawsuit.

He said the damages alleged in the complaint resulted solely and proximately from the conduct of Fitial, Buckingham, and CUC and their agents and representatives.

Fitzgerald said Fitial, Buckingham and CUC should indemnify SDLLC and hold the company free of harm.

He said the plaintiffs also have contributory negligence and unclean hands considering that as members of the CNMI House and Senate they could have rejected or modified the executive order under which Fitial signed the PPA.

SDLLC asked the Superior Court to order the plaintiffs to pay the company for costs incurred in responding to the complaint.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority asked the Superior Court yesterday to direct the NMI Retirement Fund to comply with Public Law 17-82 that allows Fund members to withdraw their contributions without separating from the government.

CPA, through counsel Robert T. Torres, said that Public Law 17-82 imposes clear, nondiscretionary duties on the Fund and its administrator to approve and pay out employee funds.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed the law on Sept. 11, 2012.

"The trustee [ad litem] is not entitled to pick and choose which laws he elects to obey and which statutes he is free to ignore," said Torres in CPA's motion for writ of mandamus.

CPA asked the court to direct the Fund, Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan, and Fund trustee ad litem Joseph Razzano to act on and approve all employee applications to termi-

nate membership in the Fund in accordance with the mandate of P.L. 17-82.

CPA also asked the court to direct the Fund and the CNMI government to provide withdrawing members with a statement of all contributions withdrawn from their salaries, as well as a statement of payments tendered by the employing agency.

CPA also wants the court to order the Fund to halt all further contributions from CPA and other withdrawing employees as required by P.L. 17-82.

The plaintiff also asked the court to direct the CNMI government and the Fund to release the affected employee contributions and return them to withdrawing Fund members, with accrued interest, as required by law.

Torres said that Razzano and Pangelinan have failed to refund the employee contributions of employees who have elected to terminate their membership in the Defined Benefit Plan, in der-

ogation of their responsibilities.

Instead, Torres said, Razzano filed a motion in federal court on Dec. 12, 2012, to delay this process.

Without notice to the government agencies participating in the lawsuit or any active employees impacted by his inaction, Razzano refuses to disburse the contributions of "any employee" electing to terminate their Defined Benefit membership until all agencies have turned over their contributions to the Fund in full, he said.

"As an excuse for the Fund's noncompliance with the statutory mandate—and without regard to its failure to take action to ensure that noncompliant government agencies have turned over the employee con-

tributions that they have collected—the Fund argues that it cannot return any employee contributions since all government agencies have failed to remit all of their employee contributions," he said.

As a backup excuse, Torres said, the Fund also maintains it lacks the manpower and necessary computer software to calculate how much it must refund.

"CPA has fully complied with its employer contributions and its employees must be entitled to withdraw the contributions that CPA has remitted, with interest, and without restriction," he said.

The Fund filed a lawsuit in Superior Court in 2006 against Fitial, the CNMI government, and co-defendants over the government's failure to remit required payments to the Fund.

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# MHS senior takes home tiara in post-Valentine pageant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Marianas High School senior showed her true Filipino lineage Sunday night after being crowned Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* 2013.

Melody Margaret Johnson outshone seven other candidates to win the second year of the beauty pageant that serves as the highlight of the signature Valentine event of the United Filipino Organization.

Johnson, who also won the Best in National Costume, beamed as she accepted her crown and was later joined on

stage by family members and friends.

"I'm so amazed. I'm glad that I showed everyone that I have true *Pinoy* side," Johnson said in an interview following the coronation.

A multi-sport athlete, Johnson revealed that she joined the beauty pageant at the last minute and even played in a tennis tournament hours before being crowned last Sunday.

"I didn't expect to win but once I stepped foot on the stage, confidence came over me. I knew I was going to win," she added.

Johnson earned the nods of



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Paul Dujua, center, is joined on stage by Marianas High School students as he serenades the crowd.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School senior Melody Margaret Johnson, sixth from left, beams after being crowned Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* 2013 on Saturday at the *Pusong Pinoy* event at the Garapan Fishing Base.

the panel of judges—Mar Masi-lungan, Abel Pellegrino, Vicky Concepcion, Ms. Teen CNMI Gina Duenas, and Ms. CNMI

Universe Kimberly Reyes—when she answered during the question and answer portion that she does everything for her

father, Edwin "Ed" Johnson, who passed away in 2011.

"Since I was little, he's always been the one to push me to do

things that I didn't even know I could do," said the young lass. "He taught me that I can do whatever I want to do and I could be the best at it, too."

Johnson describes herself as just like her Filipino mom, Delia, who also loves to sing and dance and speaks to her in Tagalog at home.

"I'm so proud that my daughter won," said Delia Johnson, adding that her daughter's confidence and focus in whatever she does gave her the edge.

The younger Johnson said she had her first brush with beauty contests a few years ago when she won second runner up in the Little Ms. Marianas pageant.

Johnson disclosed that she didn't embrace the other half of her lineage until this year when she traveled to the Philippines and met with her cousins who taught her about the Filipino culture.

"I just want to tell other Filipino girls that they're beautiful and to embrace their Filipino side, too," added Johnson who plans to major in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Winning first runner up is Renita Shanel Fleming, who also bagged the Miss Photogenic, Best in Long Gown, and Best in Island Wear awards.

"I feel proud and happy," said the first-time beauty titlist. "I'm proud of myself that I had the opportunity to experience this pageant."

Fleming noted that her successful stint in Ms. *Pusong Pinoy* is her first step toward achieving other beauty titles in the future.

"Never give up. Just believe

See MHS on next page

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Secretary of Public Works  
2nd Floor Forton Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW/SWMD13-RFP-001

### PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE TRANSFER STATION AND MARPI SOLID WASTE FACILITY (MSWF), SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Pest Control Services for the Transfer Station and Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF) on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **February 12, 2013** at the DPW, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Solid Waste Management Division Office. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** is scheduled at **10:00 a.m., local time on March 01, 2013** at the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station Conference Room. **Questions regarding this RFP** must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Alex S. Chong**, Director, Solid Waste Management Division, Pagu Avenue, Saipan, or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than **4:30 p.m., local time, March 06, 2013**.

EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with NMIAIC § 70-30.3-210 of the CNMI Procurement Rules and Regulations as revised. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

#### Technical Requirements:

1. Qualifications of the Pest Control Firm: 45%
2. Past experience or equivalent on similar projects: 45%
3. Current Workload of the Pest Control firm and ability to commit to the Scope of Work: 10%

#### Cost:

Price is also a factor that will be considered and will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of the proposals. Technical merit is more important than price, and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Discussions may be conducted with the responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract. The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination to conformance with the Procurement & Supply Regulations NMIAIC 70-30.3-245 and must possess a valid CNMI Business License.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

Proposers must submit an original and four (4) copies of signed, sealed proposals marked **DPW/SWMD-12-RFP-001 "Pest Control Services - Transfer Station and Marpi Solid Waste Facility (MSWF)"** to the office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, March 15, 2013**. Proposals submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 15, 2013** and must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive by **March 27, 2013**. Proposers outside the Commonwealth must notify the Director of Procurement and Supply, in writing, of their intent to submit in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual proposal documents. This notice of intent to submit may be any mode of written communication including facsimile to 670-664-1515 or email to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com) but must be received no later than **2:00 p.m., local time, March 15, 2013**.

All response to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.  
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply



CLARISSA V. DAVID

First runner up Renita Shanel Fleming shows off her outfit during the Island Wear portion of the competition. Fleming also bagged the Miss Photogenic, Best in Long Gown, and Best in Island Wear awards.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ms. Pusong Pinoy 2013 Melody Margaret Johnson.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

2nd Runner Up and Best in Talent winner Roshiel Pascubillo models her gown.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Ms. Pusong Pinoy 2013 Melody Margaret Johnson and first runner up winner Renita Shanel Fleming are flanked by officers and members of United Filipino Organization and other supporters on Sunday night.

in yourself that you can achieve great things," advised the Hopwood Jr. High School student.

Roshiel Pascubillo, who won second runner up and Best in Talent, said joining the competition helped her gain not just new friends but also self-confidence.

"Now I'm no longer afraid to face a crowd," said the MHS student.

Other Ms. Pusong Pinoy contenders were Carla Flores, Stevie Jocelyn Jeter, Jasmine Guanzon, Gilda Maria Bautista Ogarro, and Nelly Saturno. The candidates were choreographed by Ernie Molina and received free hair and makeup from sponsoring salons: Trends Beauty Salon, Serenity Salon & Spa, Ai Fashion, Infinity 8, Jojo Beauty Salon, Nila's Salon, and Tropical Blend & Spa.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said the pageant is a "good exposure" for young

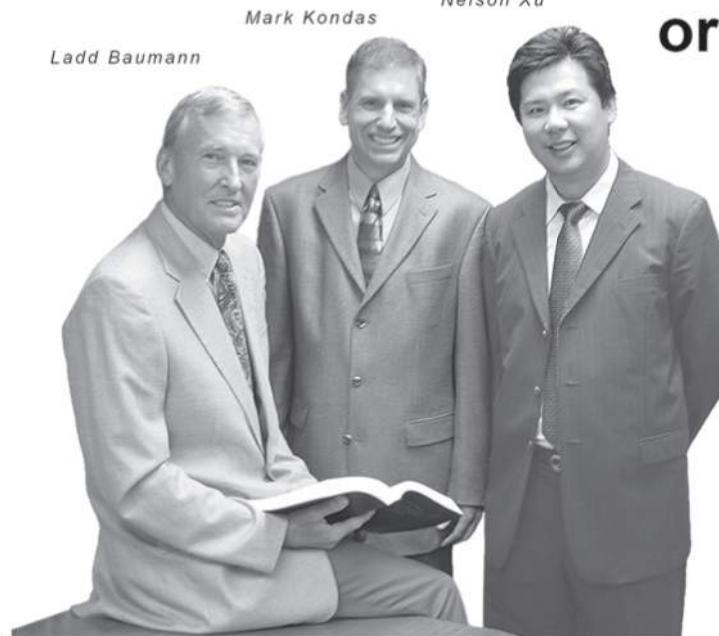
contestants. "We've seen these young girls transform from being shy to being confident and outspoken and that's a great thing," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

*Pusong Pinoy* began with a free health screening held from 7am to 10am, sponsored by the Tau Gamma Phi/Sigma-Triskelion Group. Community members availed of free blood sugar and blood pressure screening, flu shots, and vision checkup.

The post-Valentine event was also highlighted by the *Panlasang Pinoy* culinary contest won by Shirley's. Tang's won second place, and D'Elegance, third place. Other participants were Jhem's Restaurant and Jologs Bbq.

The entries were evaluated by Eli Arago of Tan Holdings, Jake Villanueva of Naked Fish, Manny Pancha of Mariana Resort & Spa, and Peter Crisostomo of Emon Lodge.

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Saipan Law Office of William Fitzgerald  
located on Beach Road in Garapan, near the fire station.

# Shareholder sues No Ka Oi, seeks damages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

One of the incorporators of No Ka Oi Termite & Pest Control (Saipan) Inc. has sued the company for allegedly unlawfully terminating him as manager and refusing to pay any dividends to its shareholders.

Joey D. Lopez Sr., through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, sued No Ka Oi for breach of contract, wrongful termination, and failure to pay dividends.

In a lawsuit filed Thursday, Lopez, a resident of Guam, is demanding \$103,000 or more in compensatory damages if the company's profits are shown to be more than \$40,000 a year for the years 2009 to 2012.

When asked for comments, No Ka Oi (Saipan) vice president Paul Romias II said yesterday that they are going to answer the complaint accordingly in court.

No Ka Oi counsel Mark Hanson also told *Saipan Tribune* that the company has not seen the complaint so it is difficult to comment except to say that Lopez "has launched several

attacks against the company" since he was asked to leave the management team.

"None of Mr. Lopez's attacks, to-date, have had any merit. The company will respond to the complaint in the U.S. District Court," Hanson said.

According to the complaint, Lopez, along with Paul Romias, Paul Q. Romias II, Lincoln Delos Santos, incorporated No Ka Oi in September 1990.

Fitzgerald said the total number of shares issued was 1,000 at a par value of \$1 and that Lopez paid \$250 for 250 shares or 25 percent of the corporation.

The lawyer said subsequent to incorporation, the shareholders elected four directors: Paul Romias, Paul Romias II, Delos Santos, and Lopez. The directors then appointed Delos Santos as company manager.

Fitzgerald said Delos Santos managed the affairs of the company until the board removed him due to poor health and replaced him with Lopez.

Fitzgerald said that under Lopez's management, No Kai Oi's customer base expanded and the company enjoyed the greatest

profits in its history.

"Despite diligently discharging his duties and producing record profits for the company, Lopez was summarily discharged from his management position without any board action in September 2010," the lawyer said.

Since at least 2010, the company has allegedly failed to conduct an annual shareholders' meeting; has failed to elect four directors; and has failed to distribute profits or dividends despite profits being made.

On Oct. 1, 2011, Lopez, pursuant to Article 15 of the Articles of Incorporation, offered in writing to sell his shares back to the corporation.

Fitzgerald disclosed that by letter dated Nov. 1, 2011, the company accepted Lopez's offer and informed him that Karvin Flynn Jr. of Scott Magliari and Co., a certified public accountant, had compiled the book value of his shares.

The company also told Lopez that No Ka Oi would deduct all personal expenses that were paid for his personal business and not related to company business.

Lopez then requested from

No Ka Oi financial statements for the year 2008 through 2011, the accounting disclosure sheet and valuation prepared by Flynn, and a detailed list of Lopez's personal expenses.

Fitzgerald said No Ka Oi ignored Lopez's demand, preventing him from determining the true value of the shares and the validity of the claim that he owed the company money.

Fitzgerald said that, in September 2012, Lopez was informed that the book value calculated by the company at the time it agreed to buy his shares was \$36,000, and by letter of Dec. 13, 2012, he agreed to accept that amount for the purchase of his shares.

Fitzgerald said No Ka Oi refused to honor the agreement made in November 2011 and continues to refuse to pay Lopez.

The lawyer said that since at least 2009, No Ka Oi has failed to pay any dividends to its shareholders and that during this time, the records that Lopez has been able to examine show that the company has made, after taxes, profits of approximately \$40,000.

## Miah's sentencing delayed again

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has delayed anew the sentencing of controversial Mohammed Jahangir Miah in order to get more information about his other criminal cases.

Manglona did not conduct the sentencing hearing on Friday and instead continued it to March 4, 2013 at 1:30pm.

The judge said she needs to see factual information to support the criminal history cat-

egory factor.

Miah entered a guilty plea in August 2011 in connection with the driver's license scam case.

Miah's sentencing had been postponed several times for various reasons. His original sentencing date was Nov. 15, 2011.

Attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Miah, told reporters after the hearing on Friday that Manglona wants to make sure that all factual information are submitted before sentencing.

Thompson said it was not that the defendant has "a new day" because the sentencing will be done in just a couple of weeks.

Thompson said his recommendation is to sentence Miah to three months in prison that the U.S. government originally agreed to in the plea agreement.

The U.S. government wants Miah to be slapped with a 10-month prison term for his role in a conspiracy to unlawfully produce driver's licenses.



**HANMI DONATES**

Nick Nishikawa, chairman of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, extends warm wishes to congregate clients of the Office on Aging before making a \$1,000 donation on behalf of HANMI on Feb. 13, 2013. Also pictured is Saipan Senior Advisory Council president Maria Salina.

HANMI

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

**Feb. 19, 1999**

### CNMI asks for help to restore cut CIP funds

Confronted with the worst economic slump in years, local leaders yesterday made twin appeals to visiting US lawmakers to help the CNMI battle a federal takeover attempt and restore a \$16.2 million cut in infrastructure grants. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told congressional delegates, led by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Resources Committee, the implementation of such proposals would be disastrous to the island economy, already in grim situation because of the Asian financial crisis. "The economic impact of this loss will severely hurt us as we struggle to overcome our economic dilemma," the governor said at the opening of the CNMI's presentation of financial situation and labor and immigration reforms to committee members.

### Young pledges to hear all sides

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed hope that US Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), chairman of the House Resources Committee and members of his delegation would discover the real issues confronting the CNMI during their three-day stay on the island. Young's visit came amid renewed calls from Washington to federalize labor and immigration policies in the Northern Marianas after the 902 consultations between the CNMI panel and US President Clinton's representative Edward B. Cohen bogged down last month. With the filing of a \$1 billion lawsuit by the garment workers against manufacturers and buyers in California and Saipan, the Northern Marianas was described in various media entities in the United States as a slave island.

**Feb. 19, 2001**

### Proposal to protect tobacco funds awaits Senate action

Measures that would install extra protection on use of funds from the settlement agreement with tobacco industry players are now awaiting action from the upper chamber of the CNMI Legislature following its passage at the House of Representatives. House Bill 12-290, authored by Representatives Malua Peter and Brigida Ichihara, has been sitting in the Senate for over one month now. It seeks to establish a Master Settlement Agreement Trust Fund for initial deposits received by the CNMI from a settlement agreement with tobacco manufacturing companies on a lawsuit filed by 46 American states and four territories, including the Commonwealth.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Mohammed Jahangir Miah outside the U.S. District Court in Garapan, Saipan.

Assistant U.S. attorney Stephen F. Leon Guerrero said in court papers that the 10-month sentence is appropriated based on Miah's lack of acceptance and responsibility and his obstruction of justice.

Leon Guerrero said a defendant who engages in new criminal conduct prior to sentencing should not be given the benefit of acceptance of responsibility.

In this case, Leon Guerrero said, during an evidentiary hearing on Sept. 20, 2012, Manglona held that Miah breached his plea agreement for his criminal conduct related to another criminal case.

The prosecutor said Miah's criminal conduct occurred while he has pending sentencing.

In his report filed in court Thursday, U.S. Probation Officer Gregory Arriola stated that Miah has been complained of violating the conditions of his pretrial release.

Arriola also discussed the history of Miah's federal case and provided details of his other criminal cases that the Superior Court eventually dismissed. (Ferdie de la Torre)

**Feb. 19, 2002**

### PSS saves \$20M in 3 years

Cost-cutting measures implemented by the Public School System since Fiscal Year 1999 enabled the public institution to save as much as \$20 million in three years, government records show. The cost savings represent funds that the PSS never had to ask the government for, in the wake of dipping government revenues. Data from the PSS' Fiscal Outlook report covering FY1998 through 2002, presented by Education Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos to the Board of Education last week, reveals that the PSS achieved this feat by suspending employees' within grade increases, decreasing central office staff by 55 percent and decreasing support staff in schools by five percent, among others. The suspension of WGI for PSS employees alone allowed the agency to save \$2.7 million, while cutting back on central office staff paved the way for another \$8.5 million in savings, records show.

### Clamor grows for Article 12 amendment

As executive director of the Commonwealth Development Authority, MaryLou S. Ada said the restrictions of Article XII have not resulted into problems in giving out loans that need to be secured by real properties. "That doesn't prevent anybody from obtaining any loan. So, Article XII is not a hindrance to obtaining a loan here at CDA," Ada said. She explained that if the loan applicant is not an NMI descent, leasehold interest on real properties may be used as security. Most of the problems, she added, merely revolve on the ownership question on the land being offered as security.

# The heat is on at Tinian's annual Pika Festival



Contestants are seen before the start of the first ever Pikalicious Burger Eating Contest at the 9th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival over the weekend.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**TINIAN**—Things heated up on Tinian over the President's Day weekend as it hosted the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival at a more spacious venue, which organizers said might just be the new permanent site for the island's biggest event.

The festival was off to a hot start at the Kammer Beach during its opening ceremony Saturday noon, packing enough heat with the many activities lined up for spectators.

Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said that he and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio and board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce went around the venue, talking to people to find out that they liked the new site.

Historically conducted at Tinian's Tachogna Beach, organizers decided to move the event to a new venue as the pavilions at the former site are in need of repair.

"We're really excited. I think we've finally found the right place for the Pika Festival," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The annual festival highlights the island's *donni sali*, a small but highly potent pepper that grows abundantly in the jungles of Tinian and has gained popularity within the community and internationally.

According to Dela Cruz, the *donni sali* is "very special" to the island, as the hot pepper has become a source of employment and income for Tinian residents.

The two-day festival is made possible by the MVA, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and the Tinian Municipal Council. Other event sponsors are IT&E, Marpac, Star Marianas, Fleming's, JC Café, and Senate President Jude Hofsneider.

Dela Cruz also acknowledged Norman Tenorio for providing ferry service using his *Super Emerald* vessel, which accommodated bikers and other

Saipan residents who wanted to take part in the festivities.

Hundreds of visitors flew in from the neighboring islands of Saipan and Guam to take part in the festivities. This year's event also accommodated throngs of tourists from China and the U.S. mainland, even attracting the attention of Korean TV media.

"As always, we try to make it bigger and better so that we can continue bringing visitors and residents together," said Dela Cruz.

## Event highlights

Now on its 9th year, the festival featured traditional activities that focus on the island's products and aquatic surroundings.

For the first time, JC Café sponsored the "A Minute to Win It" Pikalicious Burger Eating Contest where contestants were challenged to chow down a flavorsome but fiery burger prepared with a sauce using the *donni sali*.

First placer Renato Esteban said he only joined the contest for fun. "It was spicy and I had a hard time swallowing the burger," said Esteban, who has been on the island for 22 years.

Other winners were Michael Marshall, second place, and Tom Erickson, third place.

Another headliner was the hot pepper eating contest. For the female category, the winners were defending champion

Tina Marie San Nicolas, who won for the third straight year, second placer Jamie San Nicolas, and third placer Dolores San Nicolas.

Tina San Nicolas said it was her mother-in-law, Karidat San Nicolas, who got her to start eating the hot pepper.

"Every time I eat, I just have to have the hot pepper," she said. Her four children also have the same eating habit.

San Nicolas said she just tried to win her crown back. "I just love this festival and Tinian has the hottest, most blazing pepper in the CNMI!"

For the Dragon Boat Race event, Team Mayor clocked in at 6 minutes and 32 seconds, besting five other groups to win the speed contest.

"We made sure that we moved and paddled in a straight position," said Mayor Dela Cruz.

Another group member, Frank Dela Cruz, said their victory was a collaborative effort. He said group members chanted *ugan chunga* so they will all paddle at the same time.

Winning second place in the boat race was Team JC Café and third place went to Team UDZ.

Team JC Café's Jun Degamo said second place wasn't bad since they were able to demonstrate teamwork.

Another member, Jake Cruz, noted that the rough wa-

ters made it challenging for them to paddle consistently. "It was fun and enjoyable for all of us," he added.

Meanwhile, Marciana Cruz topped the booth decoration contest with her island-inspired trimmings that consisted of the Tinian hot pepper, palm fronds, and the local tangerine. Cruz's brother, Ador Fronda, decorated the booth to make it more attractive to customers.

"I'm thankful that the judges were fair. We were really excited to participate in this festival.

We're proud of Tinian because we have a peaceful and safe community here," said Cruz, who arrived on island in 1985.

This mother of four said they will use the \$150 prize money to celebrate.

The two-day festival, which was broadcast live over KKMP, also featured other contests and various performances from Cedrick the Magician, Saipan Music & Dance Studio, Marianas Blend, Tao Tao Taga Cultural Dance, Marianas Blend, St. Joseph's Catholic School on Tin-

ian, Guam's Santa Rita senior citizens, Joe Sablan's one-man band, and award-winning violinist Zhen Yu Zu.

MVA Tinian's Vida Borja expressed her appreciation to all participants and guests as this year's event was their biggest crowd to date.

"This is a family-oriented event and our new venue is safe for our children. We all look forward to our 10th year celebration, which we will try to make even bigger and more fun," said Borja.



Marciana Cruz, second right, is joined by family members for a souvenir photo after being hailed winner of the booth decoration contest.



Hot pepper eating contest winners Tina Marie San Nicolas, Jamie San Nicolas, and Dolores San Nicolas.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS A&E DESIGN of the THE PUERTO RICO DUMP CLOSURE RFQ13-GOV-080

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Architectural & Engineering Design of the Puerto Rico Dump Closure Project located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A&E services required will be available on Thursday, February 21, 2013, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. Questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or fax to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. Friday, March 08, 2013 ChST.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project descriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Background of the Company(s) and proposed assigned personnel	- 25%
2. Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects	- 25%
3. Project Approach and Schedule for Completion	- 25%
4. Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required	- 25%

Performance time for completion of the A&E redesign is One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) two hundred dollars (US\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "RFQ13-GOV-080, A&E Design of the Puerto Rico Dump Closure Project". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, March 18, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, March 18, 2013, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, March 18, 2013, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than March 27, 2013 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## Marco Rubio blows his moment

By PAUL ORTIZ  
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

**F**lorida Sen. Marco Rubio was not up to the task Tuesday night.

Deputized by the Republican Party to give its response to President Obama's State of the Union address, and hoping to lift his own presidential chances, Rubio offered no new ideas.

Rubio asserted, without offering any evidence, that the president is opposed to free enterprise. And the senator's attacks on government programs fell flat. He spent much of his time attacking the premise that government programs can help individuals and families address problems of economic inequality. But then he turned around and acknowledged that his own family has benefited from government programs such as Medicare, Social Security and federal financial aid.

While the Great Recession was caused largely by shenanigans on Wall Street and by deregulation, Rubio spread the falsehood that recession was created by government overregulation. If these ideas sound like they were recycled from the 2012 Mitt Romney for President playbook, that is because they are, in fact, almost a carbon copy of that failed campaign.

But since that campaign alienated Latinos, the senator from Miami tried to lure them back.

He became a part of American history when he delivered his response to Obama's address in English as well as in Spanish. Like most Hispanics, I wanted Rubio to make good use of his time in the spotlight. We need leaders who can make the case that Latinos are an integral part of the social and economic fabric of this nation, and that our ability to achieve equal citizenship will strengthen America.

Unfortunately, Marco Rubio is not that leader.

Take his stance on immigration. Rubio calls for more spending on border security before he will come to the table to discuss immigration reform. This is no way to build a base of Hispanic support for the GOP.

Many Hispanics see trade union membership as a key pathway to achieving middle-class status. An increasing number of Latinas are becoming leaders of unions as well as powerful labor federations in cities such as Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Chicago. Yet, not only does Rubio position himself against unions, he discounted Obama's modest proposals to raise the minimum wage.

In Hispanic cultures, the idea of community and mutual aid is held in high regard as a critical support to families that often lack the resources to weather hard times. However, Rubio avoided even a mention of community in his address. In contrast, Obama invoked the idea of community or communities nine times; this is part of the reason why he is more popular in most Latino-majority districts than Rubio.

Rubio was unable to swing significant Hispanic support to Romney in 2012. Judging from his mediocre performance on Tuesday evening, the senator has not yet learned how to connect with people outside of his base in South Florida.

Paul Ortiz is an associate professor of history at the University of Florida.



## On Iran, there's time

**O**n Feb. 26, the United States and Iran will once more resume their diplomatic ritual, in the so-called six-party talks, over Iran's disputed nuclear program. As the two perennial adversaries eye each other, there are competing paradigms about how to deal with Tehran.

An emerging school of thought suggests that the best means of "testing" Iran is to offer it a final nuclear agreement that presumably promises measurable relief from sanctions for significant Iranian concessions. Iran's failure to grasp such an offer would then conclusively demonstrate to both domestic and international audiences that the cause of the impasse is not American belligerence but Iranian truculence.

But this approach fails to recognize that an arms-control process is necessarily an incremental one, nor does it offer a practical substitute to the existing step-by-step diplomacy.

Iran's nuclear program encompasses a vast complex of enrichment facilities, centrifuge construction plants, uranium extraction companies and thousands of scientists working in university and government laboratories. Iran is enriching uranium at both 5 percent and 20 percent levels, experimenting with high-velocity centrifuges and seemingly in the process of constructing additional enrichment facilities.

Such a multilayered, multifaceted program can be dealt with only on a piecemeal basis, as the technical details and rules for inspections are too complex to be addressed in a single agreement.

Moreover, should the United States offer Iran a final deal, Tehran still has a right to contest and negotiate its provisions and offer counterproposals. The international community is unlikely to concede to either more sanctions or the use of force until Iran's objections are taken into full consideration. As such, a grand deal that is supposed to provoke a moment of clarity is likely to be enmeshed in the existing, protracted arms-control process.

Another complication is the advent of public opinion and critical constituencies in Iran devoted to the perpetuation of the program. The growing public sentiment is that Iran has a right to acquire a nuclear capability. As the program matures, it is becoming a source of pride for a citizenry accustomed to the revolution's setbacks and failures.

Also emerging is a bureaucratic and scientific establishment with its own parochial considerations for sustaining the nuclear investment. A clerical leadership that is dealing with a restive population and empowered security services cannot easily dispense with its nuclear trump card.

All this suggests that the best means of addressing Iran's nuclear challenge is to mitigate its most dangerous dimensions. The focus

By RAY TAKEYH  
Los Angeles Times

Ray Takeyh is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



should remain on Iran's high-grade enrichment and its underground nuclear facility nestled in mountains outside Qom. Tehran seems to have conceived an ingenious path to nuclear advancement, one that involves increasing the size and sophistication of its civilian atomic apparatus to the point where it can quickly surge into a bomb.

While staying within the rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspection process, Iran is essentially expanding its capabilities while shielding them under the veneer of legality. Given the fact that much of civilian nuclear technology can easily be misappropriated for military purposes, Iran can construct an elaborate nuclear infrastructure while remaining within IAEA guidelines.

The diplomatic challenge is to derail this path to a nuclear weapon by imposing significant restraints on its program. And this can still be done through a process that proceeds incrementally and sequentially.

U.S. officials would be wise to get out of the crisis mode and put some time back on the clock. The Iran issue always seems urgent, and yet somehow there is always time to deal with it. Washington should acknowledge the obvious, namely, that given Iran's gradualist approach, it is still years from completing an efficient enrichment infrastructure, constructing a nuclear arsenal and developing a reliable means of delivery. By agreeing to a compressed timeline, the U.S. only narrows its options and makes a solution even more elusive.

As the United States again contemplates its Iran conundrum, it should eschew calls for a take-it-or-leave-it deal. The history of Iran's confrontation with the international community suggests that keeping it a crisis situation benefits the Islamic Republic. Ironically, it is the Western powers that have generated alarmist conditions. And then to escape the predicament of their own making, they offer Iran more concessions and further incentives.

To avoid a repeat of that outcome, it would be prudent to have a sense of proportionality and appreciate that, in the end, time works best for the United States and not the economically beleaguered theocracy.

# Triste na finapos tresi

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



**G**i silensi na minamahlau, hu pañot i te'lañg ni gaddun gi guetgueruhu 'nai sige hu repasa amanu sessu 'nai gaige i finatsu ni fumafagu metgot na sentimentun publiku para umana' suha i gobietnadot. Hu raya i papet ya hu tuge' papa' manu 'nai matompu'.

Gi tod i finatsun este na gobietnadot, un' palabra metgot na eku gi santatte na kada ratu ha' kumilulog halom yan huyuñgi hinasoghu. I palabra: Inañgoghu. Maliñgu este na guaguan katgun publiku ayu mina' sin ditension i publiku chumoneg para umana' suha gi puestoña.

Yangin maliñgu' i katgun inañgoghu, pues kanaha' tai bali i ttehnna na sakan gi presente na tetminon gobietnadot. Buente mampos i selebrasion mana' impottanteña i puestu ke kontribusion kada unu gi tropa ni umesgaihon i karera hulu' esta i puntan hogsu'.

'Nai maliñgu ennau na konsiderasion ni ha inklulusu mafa' basula i hagas amesta dese antes, pues anog haf' na karitatibun tautau gaige gi mas tatkilu' na siyan publiku.

■■■

## Maliñgun respetu

I tradision "respetu" ha embrarasa todum atmos bandan chalan. Debi un' gana respetun i otru. Ti siña na para un' demanda respetu 'nai ni hagu mismu ti un' respetu i prohimumu.

Pot fitme na pogse' man-magoden te'chuñg ginen hilun respetu

## Weaving the fabric of an American story

**I**f Katsuji Shoji hadn't stowed away on a ship from Japan to the United States early in the last century, my children might not be related to Sam Houston, the U.S. congressman turned Tennessee governor who later led the Texas army to victory over Santa Anna and became first president of the Republic of Texas.

In truth, distant cousin-by-marriage Sam was an immigrant, too. That's the American reality, a thread in the fabric from which our collective story is woven.

It's an intricate weave, as so many Americans know—and too many politicians try to ignore.

As best I can pin down, young Mr. Shoji settled in California with his mail-order bride from Japan, Ritsuko.

They were law-abiding farmers in Sacramento and parents of American-born children when the U.S. entered World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which cleared people of Japanese descent from the West Coast, sent the Shoji family, including 6-year-old Mitsuko, to an internment camp in Poston, Ariz.

Released in 1945 after three years in the desert, with their stored belongings gone, they migrated to Missouri, and Katsuji and Ritsuko became U.S. citizens. He was a shrewd investor. Decades before sushi went American mainstream, she was hand-rolling it for the grandchildren their daughter Mitzi eventually had with Glenn Campbell.

Some time after I had moved Geoff—Mitzi and Glenn's older

son—to Texas with our two children, we learned that genealogy buff Glenn had found that one of his Irish ancestors, Samuel Thompson, had a grandson who married Sam Houston's sister Mary. So, I'm the native Texan, but it's my D.C.-born children who can claim relations to a Texas icon.

Can you see why my views on immigration are influenced more by the complexities of real life than by simplistic stereotypes and rigid rhetoric?

At least two of my own grandparents were brought to the U.S. from Mexico as young children, and they worked exhausting, low-wage jobs such as picking cotton to pay their own way and make a better life for their children and grandchildren.

Where might I be had they been rejected, deported or denied the opportunities they found?

It's distressing that the latest hope for improvement of U.S. immigration laws rests on a scramble for the affections of Latino voters. But imperfect motives need not lead to flawed policies.

It's reasonable to expect that anyone who came illegally should have to earn legal status to stay in this country and shouldn't get all the benefits of citizenship without having paid an appropriate price.

Some of the sentiment against a path to citizenship springs from a sense that people who've broken the law shouldn't get a break. And I get that.

People shouldn't get a free pass to smoke pot or share music they didn't pay for or carry weapons in their purses in places where no

concepts, and our population is more educated and skilled than at any point in our history. Yet our economy continues to flounder.

So then, who and what are to blame for the malign state of the majority of the world's population and, more specifically, the CNMI's? One could fill a library with possible explanations and theories to explain our current state of disrepair. While these theories offer avenues that must be explored, we must first complete the impeachment process.

I believe, with the success of this process, our path to proper development will be redirected and offered safer passage. Why do I believe this to be so? Well, simply put, for the greatest and most theoretically sound development practices to work on the ground—whatever they may be—there must be the responsibility within the local government to pursue these means without corruption, greed, and incompetence.

Our society must ensure that this responsibility is upheld through the democratic institutions present. Strong democratic institutions and the efficacy of the institution's checks and balances guarantee that the ideas which are believed to work are given a chance to succeed.

The impeachment of Gov. Fitial is more than removing an individual from a position of power; it is a pronouncement that the institutions within our democracy are strong enough to protect sound ideas from malign schemes or improprieties. For example, no economists, nor rational minds for that matter, would presume

deste agu'un haya, golai, yan gulusina.

Este na usun tanu' i tumachu kumu tradision natibu gi relasioña yan tanu' familia. Ginen hatdin familia 'nai lumachog tinanom siha ni makusecha, mana' lagu yan mapega gi lamasan familia. Estague' hagas tradision natibu guine. Guaha ha' esta pa'gu mapraktikita man-mananom gi entre 'sino uttimon semana.

Ayu na tinanom tat kumu golai siha ni chadeg makusecha, gaige gi talulu' gi hatdin. Agu'un haya siha gi kantun linderon fangualu'an. I pinagsai sañge lokue' lugat niha. Lau gi todum animun mañainata, pot mantension familia ginen i fangualu'an.

## Tinilaikan usun tanu'

Gi karera mona, ta tutuhon chumapag hagas usun tanu' 'nai ta embrasa edukasion famaguon-ta yan lokue' matutuhon ni man-amku' man-machochu' gi gobietnu dispues de geran dos. I kareran tinilaika siempre umas inatisa ni nuebu yan modetnu na technology.

I tanu' familia matulaika deste fangualu'an esta guatu gi kosas 'sino fiñkas. Lamegai gi este na modun tanu' hagas man-ma-atkila ya mafa' salape' ni man-dueñun tanu' siha. Taya' binabaña este na disision. Dispues, ni unu giya siña voluntaria mente siña prumebeniye fattan familia gi señgosoñ.

Estague' finapos usun tanu gi hagas metgot na tradision natibu. Dañkulu matulaika ya i tinilaika para mona mas siempre u didog. Deste lugat mantension familia guatu gi fiñkas finaposna tanu' natibu siha.

**Anunsiu:** Deste pa'gu na ha'ane, este na kontribusion u mapublika kada Mattes yan Huebes. Bai' chage nina' siñahu man-ayuda pot para ta simientu usun uttimu sasyan natibu sumusteni kuttura yan tradision tanu'.

Baihu soyu' todus na umatuhon ineyag mañge' liñguahae sa' dañkulu na difirensia konbetsasion yan matuge' na finu' Chamorro. Ansianuyu' limi'e' na manlagse hit gi liñguahita gi katkuet eskalera. Para un' mauleg mañge' unu ha' chalaña este na offisiu i para un' fañge' diariamente. Si Yuus Maase!

## By LINDA P. CAMPBELL

Fort Worth Star-Telegram



*Linda P. Campbell is a columnist and editorial writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via email at lcampbell@star-telegram.com.*

guns are allowed. But they do, just as some people sneak over the border seeking a chance and many overstay their visas because they like it here too much to leave.

While we try to deter law-breaking, we have to decide where to devote our enforcement energies and resources.

Do we focus on breaking up families and disrupting lives—or on stopping drug smugglers, human traffickers, counterfeiters and unscrupulous employers who take advantage of a system that's harder to comply with than to cheat?

"Well into our third century as a nation, it remains the task of us all, as citizens of these United States, to be the authors of the next great chapter of our American story," President Barack Obama said to close his State of the Union speech Tuesday.

It's a complicated story, but we can continue to make it a compelling one—about fairness, respect and possibility.

that the \$190 million sole-sourced power contract is an economically feasible path for our cash-starved government.

Yet, without the precedent set by the success of this impeachment, lawmakers, both present and future, would have no fear of recourse from our democratic institutions if they choose to make decisions with similar disregard for public good.

I do concede, however, that this impeachment and pending conviction will not immediately solve our economic woes, but in its aftermath, as we continue our struggle for economic growth supported by a strengthened belief in the institutions of our democracy, it will.

In closing, the CNMI people deserve and expect better from our elected officials. Lawmakers who continue to support and justify the illegal actions of Gov. Fitial, as outlined in the articles of impeachment, do not deserve to be part of our policymaking body. The Senate must do the right thing and convict Gov. Benigno Fitial for atrocities committed while in office. He has embarrassed the CNMI for far too long and violated the sanctity of the Office of the Governor. In the last election, the people have spoken loud and clear. The Senate must now act and carry out the mandates of the people. Anything less than a speedy conviction is unacceptable. May God bless our people and our great CNMI!

## Jon Guerrero

Dandan, Saipan

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# The path to proper development

Quite a bit of rhetoric has arisen on the notion that the impeachment and anticipated conviction of Gov. Benigno Fitial will not solve the CNMI's economic woes. To that point, and with respect, I must disagree.

In the realm of economic development, many great thinkers and theorists have surmised that the economic malaise of a region, country, or civilization are due to one cause or another. One theory for instance, the "Ignorance Theory," suggests that the wealth and prosperity of a nation is dependent upon the use of skilled knowledge and advice as a guide to the "proper path" toward development. Under this concept, the CNMI's only deficiency is in our inability to think our way toward growth.

Many of the world's poorest locales, however, have had a lengthy experience with talented, intelligent, and world-renowned thinkers contributing ideas and plans aimed at leading these impoverished countries to prosperity. The CNMI, too, has had the privilege of direct access to many of America's greatest economic minds and

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers early, then isolated showers by the afternoon. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 84° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 65
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 42
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 63
New York	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 35
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 29
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 26
Rome	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 36
Salem	Ice	▲ 48 ▼ 35
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 40
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 31 ▼ 17
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 31
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 33

## Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Today	12:50 PM	1:13 AM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Wednesday	1:38 PM	2:02 AM
Thursday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Thursday	2:28 PM	2:49 AM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Friday	3:18 PM	3:35 AM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Saturday	4:09 PM	4:20 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### ■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### ■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### ■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

#### ■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### ■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

### DEPARTURES

#### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

#### ARRIVALS

#### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

#### ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

#### SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)

#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

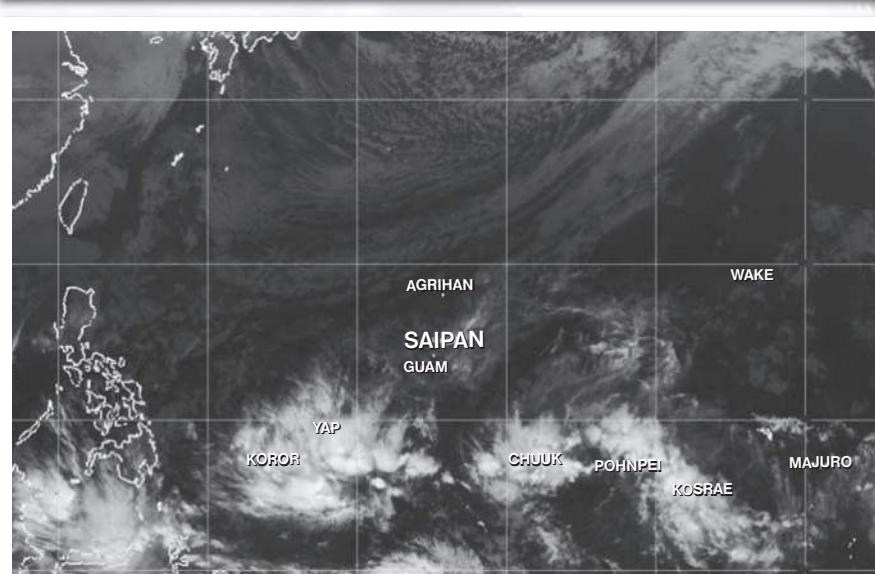
#### ARRIVALS

#### SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

#### ARRIVALS

#### HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

#### ARRIVALS



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N173E to 18N158E then continues as a shear line across the CNMI at 15N146E to end near 11N133E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 240 miles northwest of the cold front east of 22N170E. Low-level clouds and patchy showers are found along and up to 160 miles northwest of the shear line southwest of 18N158E. Strong trade-wind convergence is generating numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms primarily south of the Marshall Islands and east of Kosrae within 170 miles of a line from 5N163E to 3N and the date line farther west. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Pohnpei between 5N and

# Business

## White House seeks 'balanced way' to budget fix

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama is concerned about the effect that looming, drastic across-the-board budget cuts will have on the middle class, his new chief of staff said Sunday. Congressional Republicans predicted the cuts would start as scheduled next month and blamed Obama not only for doing little to stop them but for the idea itself.

The cuts, called the sequester, would drain \$85 billion from the government's budget over the coming seven months. Actual cuts may be around 13 percent for defense and 9 percent for other programs because lawmakers delayed their impact, requiring savings over a shorter period of time. The White House last week let loose a list of ways Americans would feel the trims, from longer waits at airport security to as many as 13,000 teachers being laid off. Outgoing Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told a congressional panel the sequester would hollow the U.S. military because it would give the Pentagon little leeway in deciding how best to spend the money.

Denis McDonough, the president's chief of staff, warned the cuts would come as the stock market is coming back, the housing market has improved and the number of jobs has grown, and urged Congress to consider a balanced approach that would further strengthen the economy and, in turn, the middle class.

"This isn't a spending fight



AP

In this Feb. 13, 2013, file photo, President Barack Obama waves as he leaves the White House in Washington. Obama and congressional Republicans made no progress last week in heading off \$85 billion in budget-wide cuts that automatically start taking effect March 1.

for us," McDonough told NBC's "Meet the Press." "This is a fight about whether we're going to make the investments in middle class families in this country, in education, in science and technology, in food inspection, and those kinds of things."

Senate Democrats last week offered a plan they say is a balanced approach of more revenue and budget cuts. The White House supports the proposal,

but it drew an icy reception from Republicans, who say the president got the tax increases he wanted during the agreement to avoid the "fiscal cliff."

"The question isn't whether we're going to insist on some position because that's the ideologically right position," McDonough said. "This should not

be a social science experiment. This should be a question where we ask ourselves, what is most important to the economy, what is most important to the middle

class families of this country, and that's the way the president is going to do this."

South Carolina's Sen. Lindsey Graham was among the Republicans on Sunday who recalled the president's position on the sequester in the fall.

"The president promised in the campaign sequestration would not happen. Now, he is allowing it to happen," Graham said on "Fox News Sunday."

"He's the commander-in-chief and on his watch, we're going to begin to unravel the finest military in the history of the world, at a time when we need it most," Graham, a member of the Armed Services Committee added. "If you want to look at ways to find \$1.2 trillion in savings over the next decade, let's look at Obamacare. Let's don't destroy the military and just cut blindly across the board. There are many ways to do this."

However, Graham offered no specifics.

The Democrats propose generating revenue from plugging some tax loopholes. Those include tax breaks for the oil and gas industry and businesses that have sent jobs overseas and taxing millionaires at a rate of at least 30 percent.

## Mortgage bill faces tough road in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sharply divided Congress isn't likely to jump at President Barack Obama's challenge for quick passage of a mortgage refinancing bill that supporters say could help millions of homeowners save big each year and boost the economy.

Obama praised the legislation in his State of the Union speech last week, saying the proposal would help more homeowners with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac take advantage of low interest rates and refinance their loans.

Even with mortgage rates near a 50-year low, Obama said, too many families that have never missed a payment and want to refinance are being turned down.

"That's holding our entire economy back, and we need to fix it," the president said. "Right now, there's a bill in this Congress that would give every responsible

homeowner in America the chance to save \$3,000 a year by refinancing at today's rates. Democrats and Republicans have supported it before."

The economy's slow recovery from the recession gives the idea urgency, Obama said. "Send me that bill," he told members of Congress listening to his speech in the House chamber.

The proposal is part of a push by Democrats and the White House to help homeowners take advantage of low interest rates as a way to help the housing market recover and to give the economy a shot in the arm.

While the bill could gain traction in the Democratic-controlled Senate, it faces a rough road in the GOP-run House, where many Republicans favor scaling back the government's role in the housing market as a way of aiding the economy. Similar versions of the measure died in the House

and Senate's lame duck sessions last year.

"At the moment, it's an uphill battle," said Rep. Peter Welch, D-Vt., who plans to file the House version of the bill.

Welch said he will reach out to Republicans this year in hopes of building more support, but the bill's association with the government-controlled Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the federal housing agencies partly blamed for the collapse of the housing market, hurts its support base among GOP lawmakers.

"The American taxpayers have already sunk \$190 billion dollars into the operations of Fannie and Freddie," said Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas, a member of the House Financial Services Committee. "It's time that we wind their operations down instead of using them as a piggy bank for failed programs that further delay the housing recovery."

## Lucky investors gain big as M&A surges in new year

NEW YORK (AP)—If stock investing is like playing the lottery, your odds of winning the jackpot just got a little better.

Companies are buying each other at the fastest pace since before the Great Recession. Investors lucky enough to own stock in a company being bought are pocketing big money.

Since November, U.S. companies have announced a dozen purchases worth \$3 billion or more in mining, food, technology, airlines and other industries. Stocks of the acquired compa-

nies have soared 20 percent or more above where they were trading before the deals were announced.

On Thursday, billionaire Warren Buffett added to the frenzy. His company, Berkshire Hathaway, joined another investment firm to buy all the stock of H.J. Heinz Co. for \$23 billion, or \$72.50 per share. That was 20 percent higher than the ketchup maker's share price the day before.

A week earlier, another group of shareholders scored.

In an echo of the big leveraged buyouts of the boom years, Michael Dell and an investment firm offered to take his publicly traded computer company private for \$24 billion, most of that borrowed money. That translates to \$13.65 per share, a 25 percent gain for stock owners, but they may get even more. Two big Dell investors are protesting that the offer is too low, raising the possibility of something rarely seen in M&A these days—a bidding war.

Investors are watching this closely for another reason: They hope it inspires investment firms to attempt other big leveraged buyouts—risky takeovers that use lots of borrowed money from banks and bond markets. The Dell deal would be the first large leveraged buyout since before the recession.

"We're finally dusting off the cobwebs," says R.J. Hottovy, a director at Morningstar, a research firm. "It shows that banks are willing to take risks."

### Bulgarians protest foreign power companies

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—Thousands of Bulgarians protested on Sunday against rising electricity and heating bills, and police clashed with demonstrators throwing eggs and tomatoes at government buildings. The violence occurred in Sofia, the capital, when riot police struggled to keep demonstrators away from public buildings, but no injuries were immediately reported. Large parts of the city center remained blocked off for hours. Similar rallies occurred in other cities across the country, with some temporarily blocking traffic on major highways.

### Masked intruders raid Greek gold mining company

SKOURIES, Greece (AP)—About 40 masked attackers raided the facilities of a prospective gold mine in northern Greece overnight Sunday, setting machinery and offices alight, authorities said. A police officer said employees told them the intruders tied up two security guards and doused them with gasoline, threatening to set them on fire. One of the guards was kicked and sought hospital treatment for bruises and respiratory problems, while the remaining 10 guards employed by the company at the facility fled, the officer said on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media.

# Nation

## White House calls draft immigration plan a backup

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Republicans and Democrats alike on Sunday predicted President Barack Obama would fail if he pushed forward with his own effort to overhaul the nation's immigration system and urged the administration to hold off while lawmakers work on a bipartisan measure.

Republican Sen. John McCain predicted the administration's efforts would come up short if the White House went forward with a proposal to put the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. on a long pathway to citizenship. Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer, who met with Obama on Wednesday at the White House to discuss progress, urged his allies in the administration to give a bipartisan group of eight lawmakers the time to hammer out a deal on their own.

Obama's newly appointed top aide, chief of staff Denis McDonough, said the White House would only send its plan to Congress if the lawmakers stumble in their efforts and cast its efforts as a backup plan.

"Well, let's make sure that it doesn't have to be proposed," McDonough said of the president's pitch, first reported on USA Today's website late Saturday.

"We will be prepared with our own plan if these ongoing talks between Republicans and Democrats up on Capitol Hill break down," McDonough said in a



Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, immigration rights activist and self-declared undocumented immigrant Jose Antonio Vargas testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on comprehensive immigration reform.

second interview, adding he's optimistic they would not crumble.

The administration's proposal would create a visa for those in the country illegally and allow them to become legal permanent residents within eight years. The proposal also requires businesses to know the immigration status of their workers and adds more funding for border security.

It drew immediate criticism from Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

"If actually proposed, the president's bill would be dead

on arrival in Congress, leaving us with unsecured borders and a broken legal immigration system for years to come," said Rubio, who is among the eight lawmakers searching for a comprehensive plan. Many of the details in the administration's draft proposal follow the broad principles that Obama previously outlined. But the fact the administration is writing its own alternative signaled Obama wants to address immigration sooner rather than later and per-

haps was looking to nudge lawmakers to move more quickly.

The tactic potentially complicates the administration's work with Congress.

Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, the Wisconsin lawmaker who was his party's vice presidential nominee last year, said the timing of the leak suggested the White House was looking for "a partisan advantage and not a bipartisan solution."

"Leaking this out does set things in the wrong direction,"

said Ryan, who could be a serious contender for his party's presidential nomination in 2016. "There are groups in the House and the Senate working together to get this done and when he does things like this, it makes that much more difficult to do that."

Freshman Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, called the leaked plan "incomplete" and said both parties in Congress and the White House need to work together on a solution.

"It hasn't happened yet. It

will happen before something is acted upon and certainly before something is passed," he said.

McCain, the Arizona senator whose previous efforts at an immigration overhaul ended in failure in 2007, predicted the White House proposal's demise if it were sent to Congress. He strongly urged the president to pocket the drafted measures and give senators a chance to finish their work.

"I believe we are making progress in a bipartisan basis," McCain, who is among the Senate group working on legislation, said. Schumer, a New York Democrat and a close ally to the White House, said he has not seen the draft proposals but, along with the Democrats working on a compromise, met with Obama this week to talk about progress being made on Capitol Hill. Schumer acknowledged that a single-party proposal would have a much more difficult time becoming law and urged the bipartisan group of senators to keep meeting to find common ground.

"I am very hopeful that in March we will have a bipartisan bill," Schumer said. "And, you know, it's obvious if a Democrat—the president or anyone else—puts out what they want on their own, (it) is going to be different than when you have a bipartisan agreement. But the only way we're going to get something done is with a bipartisan agreement."

## Community emerging as theme after Newtown shooting

**NEWTOWN, Conn.** (AP)—Ian and Nicole Hockley lived across the street from Adam Lanza, but they never got to know him or his family before the 20-year-old gunman killed their young son and 25 other people inside Sandy Hook Elementary School. In the weeks since the Dec. 14 shooting in Newtown, the couple said they have wondered whether more community involvement in Lanza's life might have prevented the bloodshed.

"If I had reached out to them, would things have been different? I don't know," Nicole Hockley said. "I do have a regret there, without a doubt. But would it have made a difference? I will never know."

Coming together has been a popular theme at vigils and concerts held in tribute to the 26 people killed inside the schoolhouse. For some of the families who lost loved ones, a renewed focus on community would be a silver lining to the tragedy.

The Hockleys are among the families working with Sandy Hook Promise, a local grassroots group dedicated to the idea that community members could support each other and turn "tragedy into a moment

## Gun raffles stoke debate after Conn. shooting

**CONCORD, N.H.** (AP)—Police chiefs in New Hampshire wanted more money for their youth training program. A youth hockey team in North Dakota needed more ice time.

Both saw giving away guns as the answer.

From car dealerships to political parties to hockey teams to yes, even police chiefs, gun giveaways are an attractive way to make money or draw in customers. But in the wake of the deadly shooting rampage in a Connecticut elementary school, such raffles are drawing criticism as the ease of obtaining firearms fuels gun-control debates nationwide.

The New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police is

raffling off a gun every day in May, including a Ruger AR-15-style rifle with 30-round magazine similar to the one used in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that killed 20 children and six educators in December. The players in West Fargo's Youth Hockey Association will raffle off 200 guns and an all-terrain vehicle next month. Up for grabs are shotguns, handguns, hunting rifles and semi-automatic rifles.

Both were planned long before the shooting in Newtown invigorated calls for increased gun control. That didn't stop critics from blasting the raffles as, at best, in poor taste and, at worst, criminal.

John Rosenthal, founder and

of transformation."

Tim Makris, a co-founder of the group, said it has been facilitating community meetings, meetings with other communities that have been involved in gun violence, and meetings with groups on different sides of the political debates on such issues as gun control. He said everyone agrees the bloodshed should not have happened, and

that is a starting point. "We are creating a dialogue and different thinking, and therefore common ground," he said.

The parents of another shooting victim, Chase Kowalski, have started a foundation in the hope of building community centers in his honor, first in Newtown, and then in other communities.

"We would like to see families

get back to core family values," Rebecca Kowalski told WTIC-AM. "It's not about dropping your kid off at some place to play. It's about going with your child and playing with that child and being an intricate part of their lives."

Lanza has been described as a loner who lived with his divorced mother and enjoyed playing violent video games.

## Submerged superstorm debris threatens tourism

**MANTOLOKING, N.J.** (AP)—On the surface, things look calm and placid. Just beneath the waterline, however, it's a different story.

Cars and sunken boats. Patio furniture. Pieces of docks. Entire houses. A grandfather clock, deposited in a marsh a mile from solid land. Hot tubs. Tons of sand. All displaced by Superstorm Sandy.

"We did a cleanup three weeks ago. Then when we went back the other day, you could still see junk coming up in the wash," said Paul Harris, president of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, which helps take care of beaches on which the group goes surf fishing. "They go and clean it again, and two days later, you have the same thing again. There's nothing you can do about it; you can't vacuum the ocean."

Coastal areas of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut are racing to remove untold tons of debris from waters hardest hit by the Oct. 29 storm before the summer swimming and boating seasons begin—two of

the main reasons people flock there each year and the underpinning of the region's multi-billion-dollar tourist industry.

The sunken debris presents an urgent safety issue. Swimmers could cut themselves on submerged junk, step on one of thousands of boardwalk nails ripped loose, or suffer neck or spinal injuries diving into solid objects. Boats could hit debris, pitching their occupants overboard, or in severe cases, sinking.

The cleanup won't be easy, fast or cheap. "The amount of debris that needs to be removed is mind-boggling," New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said, ticking off the statistics in his state: 1,400 vessels sunk, broken loose or destroyed during the storm. In just one shore town alone, Mantoloking, 58 buildings were washed into Barnegat Bay, along with eight vehicles, and a staggering amount of sand carried from the ocean beaches into the bay.

"Everything you can imagine is sitting in our waterways," he said.

# Asia

## Shiites lash out after Pakistan bombing kills 81

**QUETTA, Pakistan** (AP)—Members of the Pakistani Shiite Hazara community Sunday threatened to hold widespread protests if the government did not arrest within 48 hours the people responsible for a massive bombing that killed 81 people in a southwestern city.

Saturday's blast at a produce market in Quetta underlined the precarious situation for Shiites living in a majority Sunni country where many extremist groups don't consider them real Muslims. Some 160 people were also wounded in the blast.

Most of the dead and wounded were Hazaras, an ethnic group that migrated from Afghanistan over a century ago. Shiite Muslims, including Hazaras, have often been targeted by Sunni extremists in Baluchistan province, of which Quetta is the capital, as well as in the southern city of Karachi and northwestern Pakistan.

The vice chairman of the Hazara Democratic Party, a political group representing Hazaras, said Sunday that the party was giving the government 48 hours to find those responsible for the attack and arrest them.

"Otherwise, the Hazara community will start a protest in Pakistan and the world over," said Azizullah Hazara.

Graves had been dug but at least 60 of the dead from the Saturday evening blast still hadn't been buried Sunday evening. Religious and community



Pakistani relatives of Saturday's bombing victims mourn next to their bodies in a mosque in Quetta, Pakistan, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013. AP

leaders were set to meet Monday morning to decide whether to bury their dead or to protest the bombing by refusing to bury the bodies as they did after a similar attack in January.

After 86 people died in that bombing, which hit a billiards hall, prompting Shiites to camp out in the street for four days alongside the coffins of their loved ones. Eventually the country's prime minister ordered a shake-up in the regional administration, putting the local governor

in charge of the whole province.

"So far, we are not going home. We are not burying the dead," said Dawood Agha, a Shiite leader in Quetta.

The violence touched a chord among Pakistanis elsewhere in the country, with small-scale protests being held in Islamabad, Karachi and at least 12 other cities.

At the Islamabad rally, hundreds of Shiites and various civil rights groups demanded the government crack down on the al-Qaida-linked mili-

tant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which has claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We all know it is LeJ," said Hasan Raza, a Shiite activist. "We want the government to act now and take action against the terrorist group." The large-scale attack comes as the government, headed by the Pakistan People's Party, is preparing for elections this spring, and it adds to the widespread perception that the government has done little to improve security or the econo-

my during its five-year tenure.

Whether that anger will translate into widespread opposition to the PPP come election time remains to be seen. Baluchistan, the largest but most sparsely populated province, is a long way from places like Punjab and Sindh provinces where most of voters live. The protests calling for government action have generally been small scale so far and limited to mostly liberal activists.

At the blast site, members of

the Hazara community helped authorities dig through rubble to find the dead or survivors. Most of their efforts were focused on a two-story building that was completely destroyed. More than 20 shops nearby were also demolished.

Clothing and shoes were scattered through the concrete rubble, broken steel bars and shattered wooden window frames littering the streets.

One of those helping, 40-year-old Quran Ali, was instructing young people to be patient and careful while removing the rubble, lest they hurt themselves or survivors still buried in the debris. His cousin Abbas was still missing after the blast.

"Not one month or week passes here without the killing of a member of the Hazara community," he said. "Why is the government—both central and provincial—so lethargic in protecting Shiites?"

Near the rubble, a group of more than 50 women were wailing and beating their heads in mourning.

On a nearby road Hazara youth burned tires and chanted for the arrests of the killers. A number of Shiite groups also staged a sit-in and were demanding the immediate removal of the chief secretary of Baluchistan and the top police official, said Rahim Jaffery, who heads a Shiite organization called the Council for the Protection of Mourning.

"We are demanding the city (protection) be handed over to the army so that the killing of Hazara Shiites can be stopped," he said.

## Top US general says he can work with airstrike ban

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—The top American commander in Afghanistan said on Sunday that he believes the U.S.-led NATO coalition can operate effectively despite the Afghan president's decision to ban Afghan security forces from requesting airstrikes in residential areas.

President Hamid Karzai on Saturday said he decided on the ban after Afghan security services asked the U.S. military for an airstrike during a joint Afghan-NATO operation last week. Afghan officials said the airstrike killed 10 civilians, in-

cluding women and children, in northeast Kunar province along with four insurgents.

The death of civilians during military operations, particularly in airstrikes, has been among the most divisive issues of the 11-year-old war. The U.S.-led coalition has implemented measures to mitigate them, but the Afghan military also relies heavily on air support to gain an upper hand in the fight against Taliban militants and other insurgents.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford told reporters during a briefing that he was working out the details

of the ban with Afghanistan's defense minister and military chief.

"This is a sovereign nation and the president is exercising sovereignty," Dunford said, adding that NATO had "made extraordinary progress in mitigating risks to civilians and we will continue to do so."

Dunford said coalition forces believe they can conduct "effective operations within the president's guidance" because it falls within a tactical directive issued last year by his predecessor, Marine Gen. John Allen.

The U.S.-led military coalition

said last June that it would limit airstrikes to a self-defense weapon of last resort for troops and would avoid hitting structures that could house civilians. That followed a bombardment that killed 18 civilians celebrating a wedding in eastern Logar province, which drew an apology from the American commander.

The coalition, however, can still carry out airstrikes on its own accord.

"I believe the support we will provide to the Afghans is exactly consistent with the coalition's tactical directive," Dunford said.

## Bangladesh's Parliament amends war crimes law

**DHAKA, Bangladesh** (AP)—Bangladesh's Parliament amended the country's war crimes law on Sunday, allowing prosecutors to appeal the life sentence given to an opposition leader for his role in mass killings during the 1971 war for independence.

Prior to the passing of three amendments to the 1973 law, only a defendant could appeal a sentence.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said in Parliament that the changes were retroactive to July 2009, allowing state prosecutors to appeal

the life sentence handed down to Abdul Quader Mollah for his role in the killing of 381 civilians during the independence war against Pakistan. The prosecution had sought the death penalty for Mollah, and many Bangladeshis took part in mass protests demanding he be executed.

Mollah is a leader of Bangladesh's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami.

Legal analyst Shahdeen Malik said that the amendments would strengthen the law, and that the country's legal system could be

counted on to give verdicts based on evidence and not simply in response to street pressure.

But New York-based Human Rights Watch has criticized the amendments, saying that passing retroactive laws to overturn unpopular verdicts violates the country's commitment to protect the rights of defendants.

Nine other top leaders of Mollah's party, including its chief, Matiur Rahman Nizami, are on trial on charges of atrocities during the nine-month war.

Last month, a war crimes tri-

bunal sentenced Islamic cleric Abul Kalam Azad, a former member of Jamaat-e-Islami, to death for his role in mass killings and rape during the war.

Jamaat, a key ally of Bangladesh's main opposition party, campaigned against Bangladesh's war of separation from Pakistan, but it denies committing atrocities.

Jamaat has held a series of protests to demand that the government stop the trials and free its leaders, and has called for a nationwide general strike for Monday.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Indonesia landslides, floods kill 10, damage homes

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Landslides and floods triggered by torrential rain in northern Indonesia have killed at least 10 people and sent hundreds fleeing for safe ground. Disaster official Sutopo Purwo Nugroho says mud and rocks cascaded down hills Sunday in seven sub-districts of Manado, the capital of North Sulawesi province, while more than 1,000 houses were flooded after downpours caused a river to burst its banks. He says nine bodies were pulled from the mud and wreckage of crumpled homes and another from water. About 1,200 people fled to temporary shelters.

#### Former Singapore PM Lee Kuan Yew out of hospital

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister, has been discharged from a hospital following a brain-related blockage, but he remains under doctors' observation. The 89-year-old Lee was hospitalized Friday after experiencing a transient ischaemic attack, which occurs when blood flow to the brain stops for a period of time. The condition is associated with irregular heartbeats. A statement from the Prime Minister's Office says he was discharged Sunday and was resting at home. He'll receive anti-coagulation treatments to discourage the formation of blood clots.

#### Motorcycle bomb kills 3 in southern Thailand

**HAT YAI, Thailand** (AP)—Suspected insurgents detonated a motorcycle bomb that killed three security volunteers Sunday in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south, following explosions the previous night that left one person wounded, police said. An explosive device hidden in a motorcycle went off in the commercial district in the city of Pattani on Sunday morning, killing three civilian security volunteers who were on duty at a tower clock and wounding nine other people, Police Col. Tuanday Juthanan said.

# World

## Pope blesses huge crowd in St. Peter's Square

VATICAN CITY (AP)—His arms outstretched in a symbolic embrace, Pope Benedict XVI blessed tens of thousands of cheering people on Sunday in one of his last appearances as pontiff from his window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

Last week, 85-year-old Benedict shocked the world by announcing his resignation. He will step down on Feb. 28, planning to retreat to a life of prayer in a monastery behind the Vatican's ancient walls.

The noontime appointment in the vast cobblestone square also served as a kind of trial run for how Rome will handle the logistics, including crowd security, as the city braces for faithful to flock to Rome for the election and installation of the cardinal who will succeed Benedict as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics. Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno said upward of 100,000 people turned out Sunday and that everything went smoothly. But while there was still space in St. Peter's Square for more, many couldn't get in—or easily out—because entrances from the main boulevard were just too narrow.

The huge crowd—including parents with babies in carriages and strollers, elderly people using canes, and the disabled in wheelchairs—tried to squeeze through two spaces police left open in the metal barricades edging the square. Some people panicked or called out to



A priest displays a placard in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican as he follows Pope Benedict XVI reciting the Angelus prayer from the window of his apartments, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013.

police to help them get in or out of the square.

Pilgrims and tourists had an easier time if they entered through spaces in the elegant colonnade that architect Gianlorenzo Bernini designed

to cradle the sides of the St. Peter's Square.

Benedict seemed touched by the outpouring of affection after his decision to go down in history as the first pontiff in some 600 years to resign. The pontiff

told cardinals last week that he no longer has the mental and physical stamina to vigorously shepherd the church.

Looking into hazy sunshine Sunday, he smiled shyly at the sight of the crowd below,

filled with pilgrims waving their countries' flags and holding up banners with words of support. One group of Italians raised a banner which read: "We love you."

Speaking in Italian, the

## Israeli premier defends Israel in prisoner scandal

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister on Sunday defended the actions of his country's security forces following a public uproar over the mysterious death of a man who apparently hanged himself while being held secretly in a maximum-security prison.

Israel has said little about the case. But Australian media have said the man, identified as Ben Zygier, was an Australian immigrant to Israel who served in the Mossad spy agency at the time of his death in December 2010. Zygier reportedly was imprisoned

for unspecified security offenses.

In his first comments on the affair, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he "completely trusts" Israel's security forces and legal system. He said that freedom of expression is important, but Israel faces extraordinary threats and therefore must keep silent on some details of national security affairs like this one.

"We are not like all other countries," Netanyahu told his Cabinet. "We are more threatened, more challenged, and therefore we have to ensure the proper activity of our security forces."

"Allow the security forces to work quietly so we can continue to live securely and safely," he added.

The affair, suppressed by Israeli authorities until Australia's national broadcaster broke the story last week, has shined a rare spotlight on the murky dealings of the Mossad and brought scrutiny on Israel's system of military censorship and gag orders.

Critics have accused the Israeli government of trying to cover up the affair and are demanding a full investigation, fueling a debate about balancing

national security and freedom of information in a country that prides itself as a vibrant democracy. Israeli officials have said that while the matter was kept from the public, the prisoner was given legal representation and maintained contact with his family.

The matter also has strained relations with Australia, a close ally of Israel.

Australia's foreign minister, Bob Carr, on Sunday demanded that Israel provide information on the prisoner for an Australian investigation into his death.

## Libya's struggle to deliver justice fuels violence

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Col. Faraj el-Dersi, who defected to the rebel side from Moammar Gadhafi's police force, was gunned down late last year on the streets of Benghazi, and he bled to death in the arms of his teenage daughter.

As Libya on Sunday marked the second anniversary of the start of the uprising that toppled Gadhafi, the death of el-Dersi and nearly 40 other similar slayings are seen as evidence that some in the country are too impatient for a political system

that has yet to deliver justice and national reconciliation.

Suspicion in many of the killings of senior security and military officials has fallen on Islamists who were brutally suppressed under Gadhafi. Now, they have become among the most powerful groups in the new Libya, particularly in the east, with heavily armed militias at their command.

And they are settling old scores themselves, rather than wait for transitional justice—the process of society punishing or

forgiving the abuses of the old regime.

Mustafa al-Kufi, a 59-year-old former prisoner and political activist, said the various post-Gadhafi governments and the current parliament are all fearful that if they head down the path of transitional justice, many members of the ruling class would be among those punished for past wrongdoing.

"This is a very pressing issue and a core demand in the street," said al-Kufi, who spent 12 years in prison under Gadhafi.

pope told the cheering crowd: "Thanks for turnout in such numbers! This, too, is a sign of the affection and the spiritual closeness that you are giving me in these days." He stretched out his arms as if to embrace the faithful from across the vast expanse of the square.

Benedict made no direct reference to his departure. But in his comments to Spanish-speaking pilgrims he asked the faithful to "continue praying for me and for the next pope."

The traditional Sunday window appearance normally attracts a few thousand pilgrims and tourists, but this time city officials prepared for as many as 150,000 people seeking to witness one of Benedict's last opportunities to connect with the masses.

Authorities also used the event as a kind of trial run for the crowds expected to flock to the square in the coming weeks for the next pope's installation.

Following tradition, Benedict's successor will make his first papal appearance by stepping onto the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on the square, shortly after puffs of white smoke from the Sistine Chapel chimney tell the world the cardinals have made their secret selection.

On Sunday, extra buses and subway trains ran from Rome's train stations to near the Vatican, and free shuttle vans offered lifts to the elderly or disabled.

## Series of bombings in Baghdad area kill dozens

BAGHDAD (AP)—Car bombs tore through shopping areas within minutes of each other in mainly Shiite neighborhoods of the Iraqi capital on Sunday, killing at least 37 people and wounding more than 100.

The attacks come amid rising sectarian discord in Iraq and appear aimed at shaking Iraqis' confidence in the Shiite-led government. The explosions struck at the start of the local work week and primarily targeted outdoor markets.

Violence in Iraq has fallen since the height of sectarian fighting in 2006 and 2007, but insurgents still frequently launch lethal attacks against security forces and civilians. It was the third time this month that attacks have claimed more than 20 lives in a single day.

The attacks began with the detonation of a parked car loaded with explosives in the sprawling Shiite district of Sadr City on Sunday morning. Two more parked cars

later exploded elsewhere in the neighborhood.

Nima Khadum, a government employee, said the blasts shattered the windows of his Sadr City house. He said the air was heavy with smoke, while burning cars littered the street and the bodies of the dead and wounded lay nearby.

"The scene was a bloody one that brought to my mind the painful memories of the violent past," he said. "I don't see the benefit of security checkpoints that only cause traffic jams and don't do anything to secure Baghdad. The government, with its failing security forces, bears full responsibility for the bloodshed today."

Simultaneous explosions also hit the southeastern Baghdad neighborhood of al-Amin, where the force of the blasts left behind little except the mangled chassis of two cars.

An open-air market in Husseiniya, just northeast of the capital, and the Kamaliya area in Baghdad's eastern suburbs were also hit.

# Focus

## SELECTING A NEW POPE

The election of a pope is a centuries-old process that was last updated in 2007 by Pope Benedict XVI. Since 1271, the church's highest-ranking clerics, the cardinals, have voted in a conclave, which was instituted as the result of one of the longest papal vacancies in history — two years and nine months.

### Cardinals' lodging

Cardinals probably will be bused to and from the chapel to limit exposure to outside influences; they may not communicate with anyone not involved in the election or be exposed to mass media

### Morning of prayer

On the conclave's first day, the cardinals assemble for a Mass in the morning, and walk in a procession to the Sistine Chapel in the afternoon

### Conclave begins

As a group, the cardinals swear an oath of secrecy; each then places his hands on the Gospels and adds a personal promise

**Secrecy** The room is cleared of nonparticipants, and entrances are sealed; voting may begin right away

### Vatican City



House of St. Martha

City wall

Papal Audience Hall

Palace of the Holy Office

Hospitality House  
"Gift of Mary"

New pope delivers his blessing from balcony

Smoke signals election results

Sistine Chapel

Borgia Tower

Hall of Litorio

Apostolic Library

Hall of Bramante

Palace of Gregory XIII

Papal Apartments

Barracks of the Swiss Guard

St. Peter's Square

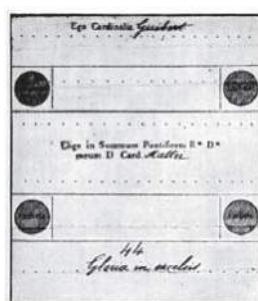
### The voting process

Voting in the Sistine Chapel takes place once on the first day of the conclave; if a pope isn't chosen at that time, voting then occurs twice during each subsequent morning and evening

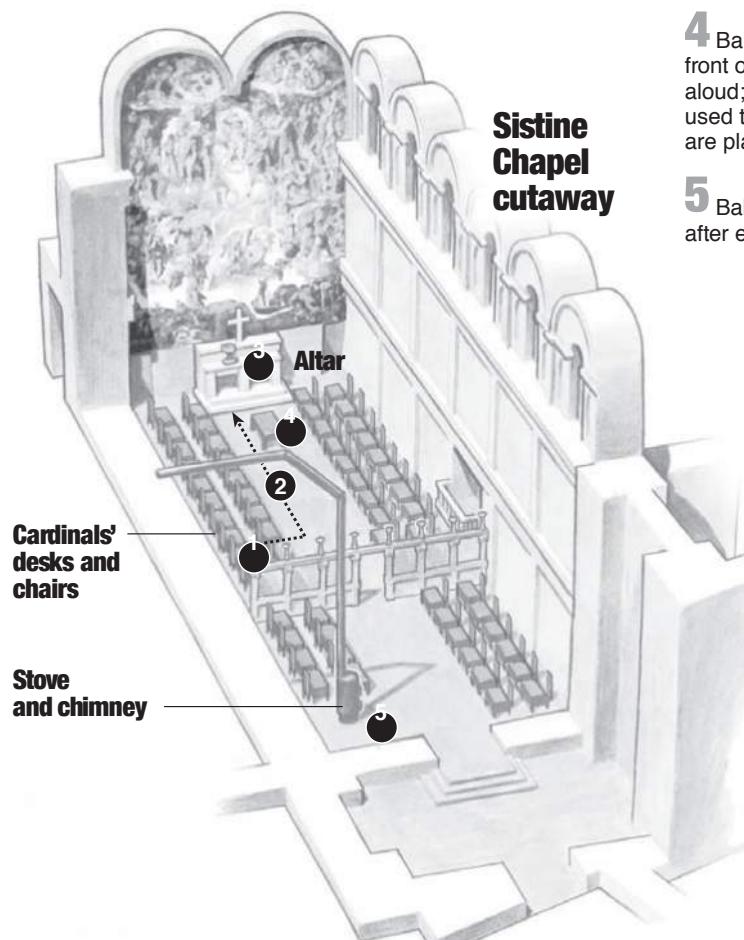
1 Disguising his handwriting, each cardinal writes his choice on the ballot and folds it twice

2 Each holds his ballot so it can be seen and walks to the altar

3 Ballot is placed on a golden plate, then slid into a receptacle, traditionally a chalice; receptacle is shaken to mix the ballots, which are then transferred to an urn



Ballot



### Sistine Chapel cutaway

4 Ballots are counted at a table in front of the altar. Names are read aloud; a needle and thread are used to join the ballots, and they are placed aside; votes are totaled

5 Ballots are burned in stove after each vote

Ballots

Chalice



### Voting results

• A pope is elected when he obtains a two-thirds majority — a change established by Pope Benedict in 2007; if cardinals are deadlocked after 13 days, they pause for a day of prayer and reflection, then move on to runoff ballots between two leading candidates; election continues until a two-thirds majority is reached

• When ballots are burned, black smoke indicates no decision has been made and white smoke signifies a new pope



### The new pope

Within hours of his election, the new pope:

- Chooses the name by which he will be known
- Goes to a small red room near the chapel; he is dressed in the papal vestments, white skull cap and soutane, which have been prepared in various sizes
- Proceeds to the main balcony of the Vatican, where the senior cardinal deacon declares, "Habemus papam!" (We have a pope); pope delivers his first papal blessing

### The College of Cardinals

Only cardinals under the age of 80 may vote for a new pope; more than half of the 118 eligible cardinals were appointed by Pope Benedict XVI; the rest were appointed by Pope John Paul II

### Cardinal electors, by region of origin

Europe 62



Latin America 19



North America 14



Africa 11



Asia 11



Oceania 1



U.S. 11

U.S. 11

### Who can be pope?

In theory, any Catholic man in good standing may be elected — he need not be a cardinal or other member of the clergy; the last non-cardinal to ascend to the papacy was Urban VI in 1379

# Overdrive

## Sporty Subaru XV Crosstrek a solid choice

By LARRY PRINTZ  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Too many car companies commonly use a confusing array of letters to designate different models, rather than names. After all, names are usually easier to remember. That is, unless the car in question is the mystifyingly named Subaru XV Crosstrek.

Call it the Subaru XV. That would be easy to remember: XV equals crossover vehicle. Or name it the Subaru Crosstrek. But why use both?

The tongue-tangling name adorns the flank of a vehicle that strikes a sporty, spunky off-road pose similar to a Subaru Outback. That's because the XV Crosstrek replaces the Outback Sport, the smaller version of the Outback.

Like the former Outback Sport, the XV Crosstrek is basically a Subaru Impreza Sport hatchback jacked up a few inches and draped in added cladding.

With 8.7 inches of ground clearance, this vehicle gives the impression that it can easily traverse rocky roads. Maybe it can, but the XV Crosstrek lacks the underbody cladding needed for serious off-road work. But it's perfect for folks who face flooded roadways, muddy fields and other uncivilized driving conditions.

The XV Crosstrek shares its 148-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine with the Impreza. There's a choice of a five-speed manual or a continuously variable automatic transmission, also known as a CVT. All-wheel drive is standard.

The test car had the CVT, which most buyers will opt for. A CVT differs from other automatic transmissions in that it constantly varies the gear ratio among numerous ratios, rather



The 2013 Subaru XV Crosstrek replaces the Outback Sport, the smaller version of the Outback. MCT

than choosing from among six, as in a six-speed transmission. So you'll never feel it shift from first gear to second. But CVTs can cause a car to respond sluggishly at times, especially when asking for a burst of power. The flip side is that, since the transmission is always in the ideal gear ratio, mileage is impres-

very firmly; you'll experience the deteriorating state of our highways. Steering effort is very light, and feels vague on center. But body lean is held in check in corners, and the car has an athletic feel, despite the added ride height. Braking is good. But the test vehicle's pedal traveled some distance

before the brakes seemed to work, which didn't always inspire confidence.

While none of that is a deal breaker, keep in mind this platform is used for the high-performance WRX and STi, two models beloved by the fast-and-furious set. A little more of the feel of those cars in this one would be welcome.

The XV Crosstrek is offered in two trim levels: Premium and Limited. The test car, a Limited model, had the optional "Moonroof and Navigation Package," which added navigation and XM Sirius satellite

sive. Rated at 25 mpg city, 33 mpg highway by the EPA, the test car returned an admirable 28.4 mpg.

But this is a small car at heart, so don't be surprised by the XV Crosstrek's wind, road and tire noise, or the vocal engine note when asked for more power.

The XV Crosstrek rides

and-and-furious set. A little more of the feel of those cars in this one would be welcome.

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NUTS & BOLTS	
<b>Engine:</b>	DOHC 2.0-liter four-cylinder
<b>Wheelbase:</b>	103.7 inches
<b>Length:</b>	175.2 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	3,197 pounds
<b>Cargo space:</b>	22.3-51.9 cubic feet
<b>EPA rating (city/highway):</b>	25/33 mpg
<b>Base price, base model:</b>	\$21,995
<b>Base price, test model:</b>	\$24,495
<b>As tested, including destination charge:</b>	\$27,290

## Toyota settles with 29 states, American Samoa over recall issues

By KEN BENSINGER  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In its latest bid to put the sudden acceleration matter behind it, Toyota Motor Corp. has reached a \$29 million settlement with attorneys general from 29 states and one U.S. territory.

The agreement, announced Thursday, was originally approved by Toyota's board in Japan in December, the company said.

It comes less than two months after Toyota announced a record-setting \$1.1 billion settlement of hundreds of class-action claims that the automaker's actions involving the acceleration problem

had damaged the value of consumers' vehicles. And last month, Toyota settled for an undisclosed sum in a major wrongful death suit that had been scheduled to go to trial this month.

Under terms of the latest deal, Toyota will make more safety information about its cars available to consumers and will continue deployment of its "rapid-response service teams" to assist drivers with potential safety problems.

The \$29 million will be divided between the states and American Samoa.

"Resolving this inquiry is another step we are taking to turn the page on legacy issues from

Toyota's past recalls in a way that benefits our customers," said Christopher Reynolds, Toyota Motor Sales' general counsel.

In bringing the case, the attorneys general alleged that Toyota was guilty of unfair and deceptive business practices by withholding information from consumers about defective components, including accelerator pedals.

In addition, state prosecutors claimed that problems in Toyota's communication chain between U.S. and Japanese operations contributed to a lack of sharing important safety information.

"Companies that continue to put profits ahead of consumer safety will be held account-

able," said Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Kilmartin in a statement. "This settlement puts auto manufacturers on notice: Customers need to be able to trust that the safety information provided by car manufacturers is accurate and truthful."

Starting in late 2009, Toyota began a series of recalls related to sudden acceleration events in its Toyota and Lexus vehicles, ultimately recalling more than 10 million cars and trucks worldwide. The automaker faced numerous state and federal investigations and its president, Akio Toyoda, took the highly unusual step of apologizing to Congress.

## MOTORING Q&A

### Fuel pressure drops on 1993 Chevy minivan after warmup

By PAUL BRAND  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION:** Our 1993 Lumina minivan has the 3800 V-6 engine. Fuel pressure is good when the key is turned on and while it warms up. As soon as it warms up, and I'm assuming goes into "closed loop" operation for fuel-air mixture calculations, the fuel pressure smoothly drops to zero over about 3 seconds. I'm assuming the computer is turning the fuel pump off. The factory manual doesn't describe what inputs to the computer would cause it to shut down the in-tank fuel pump. My suspicions would point toward either the fuel pressure regulator or the oxygen sensor. Can you enlighten me?

**ANSWER:** There's one more scenario that could shut the fuel pump off with the engine running—low oil pressure. The fuel pump is controlled two ways. The ECM—electronic control module—grounds the fuel pump relay when the key is turned on for 2 seconds to bring fuel pressure up quickly for startup. When the ECM sees a "start" signal indicating the engine is cranking, it grounds the fuel pump relay to allow the engine to start. Once running, the relay is continuously grounded by the oil pressure sender—as long as oil pressure is adequate. If oil pressure drops below a safe level, the oil pressure sender will open the ground to the relay to stop the pump and protect the engine from mechanical damage. Low oil pressure or a faulty oil pressure sender could conceivably be the problem. It is possible to bypass the sender to operate the relay out of circuit as a test.

Another possibility is a clogged sock filter on the fuel pickup in the tank. As the fuel pump picks up fuel to pump forward to the engine, debris in the tank may be progressively restricting fuel flow through this fine-screen filter until fuel pressure falls to the point of stalling the engine.

The oxygen sensor would not be a factor in the total loss of fuel pressure and it would seem unlikely that a failed diaphragm in the fuel pressure regulator could bleed fuel pressure down to zero. But, if the vacuum line to the regulator shows evidence of liquid fuel, the diaphragm has failed and the regulator should be replaced.

**Q:** My 2005 Nissan Altima 2.5-liter automatic with 72,000 miles has a shift shock when shifting from first to second gear and from second gear to third gear. We have already done transmission oil flushing but no change. An OBDII scan by our local dealer showed no codes. The auto transmission light and service engine light are not on. What could be the solution to this?

**A:** That's a tough one, but here are some possibilities. Harsh shifts are often related to high hydraulic line pressure in the transmission, sometimes related to high operating temperatures. Other potential issues include solenoids or accumulators that buffer pressure during shifts or a problem with the control valve assembly. But don't overlook the possibility of a misadjusted throttle position sensor, inaccurate speed sensor or transmission fluid temperature sensor.

**Q:** Just recently, for no apparent reason, the air bag light on my 2001 Mercury Villager started flashing. The local repair shop couldn't get its computer to communicate with the car's computer, so is there a way to reset the light or is there a sensor problem?

**A:** Believe it or not, it is possible to manually display air bag fault codes in this vehicle. Press and release the LH front door courtesy lamp switch five or more times within 7 seconds of switching on the ignition. If there is a current air bag fault, the code will be displayed as a sequence of flashes—one through nine—of the air bag warning light. Have your local shop read the procedure in its Alldata database, or take your vehicle to a Lincoln dealer.

*Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

# Life & Style

## Singer Mindy McCready dies in apparent suicide

**HEBER SPRINGS, Arkansas** (AP)—Mindy McCready, who hit the top of the country charts before personal problems sidetracked her career, has died in Arkansas in an apparent suicide. She was 37.

The Cleburne County Sheriff's Office said in a news release that McCready was found dead Sunday at a residence in Heber Springs from what appeared to be a single, self-inflicted gunshot to the head. An autopsy was pending.

It wasn't the first suicide attempt for the troubled singer, whose list of problems only continued to grow in 2013.

McCready entered court-ordered rehab earlier this month after her father told a judge she was no longer taking care of herself or her children and was abusing drugs and alcohol. Her sons were put in foster care at the time, but it's not clear where Zander and Zayne were at the time of McCready's death.

McCready's longtime boyfriend David Wilson, the father of her younger son, died last month in Arkansas. Authorities found his body on the same porch where they discovered McCready's son Sunday, and his death also was investigated as a suicide.

The front porch light remained on Sunday night at McCready's home in

the wooded lakefront community filled with large homes. Yellow crime-scene tape blocked off the front of the house, and a deputy sat watch over the property, referring questions to the sheriff. A pickup truck remained in the driveway.

Wilson's passing struck McCready hard. She issued a statement last month lamenting his death. She called him her soul mate and a caregiver to her sons in an interview with NBC's "Today." She said she'd never gone through anything as painful as his death.

"I just keep telling myself that the more suffering that I go through, the greater character I'll have," she said, according to a transcript of the interview.

News of McCready's death spread quickly Sunday night on Twitter, with major country stars paying their respects to the onetime Nashville darling.

"Too much tragedy to overcome. R.I.P. Mindy McCready," wrote Natalie Maines of The Dixie Chicks.

And Jason Aldean added: "Just heard about Mindy McCready. My thoughts and prayers are with her 2 boys and her family."

Melinda Gayle McCready arrived in Nashville in 1994 still in her teens with tapes of her karaoke vocals and earned a recording contract with BNA Records.

In 1996, her "Guys Do It All the Time" hit No. 1 and its dig at male chauvinism endeared her to females. Her other hits included "Ten Thousand Angels," also in 1996, and her album by that title sold 2 million copies.

She spent the next 15 years chasing another hit as personal problems began plaguing her. Her problems included a custody battle with her mother over one of her sons, an overdose and discord in her love life.

McCready took her older son, Zander, from her mother and the boy's legal guardian, Gayle Inge, in late 2011. She fled to Arkansas without permission over what she called child abuse fears. Authorities eventually found McCready hiding in a residence without permission and took the boy into custody.

She and Wilson had a son, Zayne, in April 2012. The older son's father is McCready's former boyfriend Billy McKnight.

In May 2010, she was hospitalized briefly after police responded to an overdose call at a home in North Fort Myers, Florida, owned by her mother. This followed a stint on "Celebrity

Rehab With Dr. Drew," where she declared herself to be clean from drugs. She is the fifth celebrity appearing on that show to have died.

But her troubles began earlier. In 2004, she was charged with obtaining the painkiller OxyContin fraudulently at a pharmacy. She pleaded guilty and was placed on three years' probation.

She violated the probation with a drunken driving arrest in May 2005. A few days after that arrest, she was

beaten and her boyfriend at the time was charged with attempted criminal homicide. Then she attempted suicide in July 2005, overdosed in September 2005 and slit her wrists in December 2008.

Also that year, McCready was charged in Arizona with hindering prosecution and unlawful use of transportation. Those charges stemmed from an alleged attempt in June 2005 to purchase two high performance boats, but she claimed she was trying to stop a con man.

In July 2007, she was arrested in her hometown of Fort Myers, Florida, on misdemeanor charges of scratching her mother on the face during a scuffle and resisting sheriff's deputies.



McCready

She made headlines again in April 2008 when she claimed a longtime relationship with baseball great Roger Clemens. Published reports at the time said she met the pitcher at a Florida karaoke bar when she was 15 and he was 28 and married.

In June 2008, McCready was arrested and charged with violating her probation by falsifying her community service records relating to the 2004 drug charge. A month later, she entered an extended care facility for undisclosed treatment, and followed that with a 60-day jail sentence in the Williamson County jail.

McCready found some peace after her appearance on "Celebrity Rehab" and told The Associated Press in early 2010 she hoped to get her career restarted, write a book about her experiences and begin production on a reality show. She felt she'd finally gained some control over her life.

"It is a giant whirlwind of chaos all the time," she said. "I call my life a beautiful mess and organized chaos. It's just always been like that. My entire life things have been attracted to me and vice versa that turn into chaotic nightmares or I create the chaos myself. I think that's really the life of a celebrity, of a big, huge, giant personality."

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—In mathematical terms, divide the circumference of the world by its diameter, and you have pi. In Hollywood terms, add a United Nations mix of ingredients and you have the blockbuster "Life of Pi."

With 11 Academy Awards nominations—second only to "Lincoln" with 12—and the sort of global box-office receipts normally reserved for superheroes, "Life of Pi" is one of the most unusual megahits ever to hit the big-screen. Approaching \$600 million at the box office worldwide, the film is by far the top-grosser among the nine best-picture nominees—with \$200 million more than "Les Misérables" and "Django Unchained," its closest rivals.

"Life of Pi" has action, suspense and spectacle, but it's a thoughtful, contemplative, internalized film, a philosophical and even cryptic story that touched something in the worldwide psyche resulting in business in the realm of more traditional Hollywood hits such as "The Hunger Games," "Men in Black 3" and "Brave."

Though backed by 20th Century Fox, the film has an international sensibility that "Life of Pi" director Ang Lee hopes will gradually become part of everyday business in Hollywood, which has a long history of telling tales—even overseas ones—with an American perspective.

"It's a global movie culture. The mainstream cinematic language was largely set up by Hollywood, Americans, therefore it's American. Some European directors, but it was an American spirit," Lee said. "I think the film language that's established here, that's the biggest obstacle when you try to do something different. You know, the world views things differently. They have different life experiences."

As does the talent behind "Life of Pi." The film is based on the best-selling novel by Canadian author Yann Martel,

## Overseas slice of 'Pi' flips Hollywood formula



This publicity photo released by 20th Century Fox shows Suraj Sharma as Pi Patel battling the forces of nature at sea in a scene from the film, "Life of Pi."

a globe-trotting writer born in Spain.

Lee grew up in Taiwan, went to film school at New York University and has become one of Hollywood's most eclectic filmmakers, turning his martial-arts epic "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" into a critical and commercial smash and winning the best-director Oscar for "Brokeback Mountain."

Along with Lee, who's up for best director and best picture as a producer on "Life of Pi," the film's Oscar-nominated collaborators include American screenwriter David Magee, Canadian composer Mychael Danna, Chilean cinematographer Claudio Miranda and Indian lyricist Bombay Jayashri, who sings the theme song, which she co-wrote with Danna. The film's largely Indian cast is led by newcomer Suraj Sharma as teenage Pi Patel and Irrfan Khan as adult Pi, with French superstar Gerard Depardieu and British actor Rafe Spall co-starring.

"Every big movie doesn't need to be American. This movie had virtually nothing American about it," said

Gitesh Pandya, who runs the website Boxofficeguru.com. "The more we see examples of these unorthodox films with global settings that are actually making the cash registers ring, it's a step in the direction of trying to find more of them."

"Life of Pi" follows the spiritual journey of an Indian youth who creates his own multicultural, interdenominational world view by embracing Hindu, Islamic and Christian beliefs and practices. Pi Patel's faith is terribly tested after he's shipwrecked on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger—the story offering an even more terrible narrative as Pi later relates an alternate version of his adventures.

Sounds like the stuff of an intriguing lower-budgeted arthouse film. But shot in 3-D with expensive computer animation to create a lifelike tiger and other creatures, "Pi" cost a whopping \$120 million with no guarantee it could ever pay for itself. 20th Century Fox executives ultimately decided it had enough international appeal to justify the risk.

"I'd be kidding you to say that we knew it would reach these levels," said Jim Gianopulos, Fox studio chairman. "But it's a big, beautiful world out there, and when you deliver a film that has the strength of story, the emotionality, the spirituality and the spectacle of a film like 'Pi,' people show up."

Hollywood studios once counted on domestic audiences for most of a movie's revenue. But overseas markets have been Hollywood's growth area, with international audiences now accounting for two-thirds or more of receipts on many films.

The ratio is even higher on "Life of Pi," which has taken in a respectable \$108.5 million domestically but a remarkable \$460 million—four-fifths of its total—from overseas fans. That includes \$90.8 million in China, \$45.4 million in Great Britain, \$29.9 million in Russia and \$19.8 million in Mexico.

The film comes four years after "Slumdog Millionaire," another surprise smash about an Indian youth fac-

ing grave challenges. "Slumdog" took in \$377 million worldwide and won the 2008 best-picture Oscar.

Two such films don't constitute a new wave of Hollywood openness to foreign flavors, though.

"Remember after the success of 'Slumdog,' there was a lot of talk of a lot more films like that set in similar locations, and it just didn't happen," said Nitin Govil, assistant professor at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. "Anytime you get a success like this, there's an attempt to kind of genericize it. But the thing that makes these successful is that they're singular. Maybe not one-offs, but certainly not formulaic."

And Hollywood remains a formulaic place, with stories mostly reflecting American tastes.

There have been small steps toward diversity in characters and a broader world view in themes, thanks partly to inroads by such overseas directors as Lee, Peter Jackson, Alfonso Cuaron, Guillermo del Toro, John Woo and Neill Blomkamp.

"I don't see that as mainstream yet. Someday. The establishment is the establishment. The film grammar was established that way. Patterns. I think for the majority of films they make, they will still follow that. That's the formula. You have to respect that if you're serious about money," Lee said.

"It's just that I think they have to be more opened up to different types of filmmaking," added Lee, who figures the enormous business "Life of Pi" did overseas will help that along—a bit. "It's a gradual thing. It's not going to dramatically change anything. But just look at the number. You have to pay attention to it. The number of what the world did on this movie. The market in America didn't dwindle. It's everybody else in the world. They stood up. They did their share."

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## ★ NOW SHOWING ★



### Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	9:45
Saturday and Sunday	4:00 9:45
Monday	4:00
Tues through Thurs	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba  
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Astronaut Scorch Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.



### Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday	7:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:00 7:00
Monday	1:00 7:00
Tues through Thurs	7:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba  
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



### Good Day To Die Hard

Friday	7:05 9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Monday	1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues through Thurs	4:05 7:05

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney  
Genre: Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

The story is set in Russia and begins with John McClane heading to Moscow to sweet talk some cops into letting his apparently-wayward son out of jail for something he did, but when he gets there, things surrounding his son's arrest are not as they appear and world-threatening terrorist hijinks ensue.



### Beautiful Creatures

Friday	7:30 10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Monday	1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues through Thurs	4:30 7:30

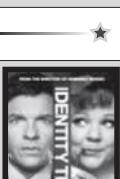
Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons  
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



### Safe Haven

Friday	7:20 9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50
Monday	1:20 4:20 7:20
Tues through Thurs	4:20 7:20

Cast: Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, David Lyons  
Genre: Romance • Rated PG 13



### Identity Thief

Friday	7:10 9:55
Saturday and Sunday	1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Monday	1:10 4:10 7:10
Tues through Thurs	4:10 7:10

Cast: Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, John Cho  
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



### Warm Bodies

Friday	7:15 9:30
Saturday and Sunday	1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Monday	1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues through Thurs	4:15 7:15

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich  
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13



### Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday	7:25 9:40
Saturday and Sunday	1:25 7:25 9:40
Monday	1:25 7:25
Tues through Thurs	7:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen  
Genre: Adventure • Rated R



### Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday and Sunday	4:25
Monday	4:25
Tues through Thurs	4:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen  
Genre: Adventure • Rated R

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# Willis' new 'Die Hard' scores with \$25M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bruce Willis remains a die-hard at the box office.

Willis' action sequel "A Good Day to Die Hard" debuted as the weekend's top draw with a \$25 million debut from Friday to Sunday. The 20th Century Fox release raised its domestic total to \$33.2 million since opening Thursday for Valentine's Day to get a jump on the long President's Day weekend.

The movie comes 25 years after the original "Die Hard" and six years after "Live Free or Die Hard," the hit that resurrected the franchise centered on Willis' relentless New York City cop John McClane.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Universal's comedy "Identity Thief" starring Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy, was a close second with \$23.4 million to lift its haul to \$70.7 million.

Debuting at No. 3 with \$21.4 million was Relativity Media's romance "Safe Haven," starring Julianne Hough and Josh Duhamel in an adaptation of the Nicholas Sparks novel about a woman who flees her abusive husband and takes up with a sensitive widower. Since opening on Valentine's Day, "Safe Haven" has taken in \$30.3 million.

The Weinstein Co. animated tale "Escape from Planet Earth" opened at No. 4 with \$16.1 million. With a voice cast that includes Brendan Fraser, Jessica Alba, Sarah Jessica Parker and Rob Corddry, the movie follows the adventures of aliens captured by the U.S. military.

Making a weak debut at No. 6 was the Warner Bros. teen fantasy "Beautiful Creatures," which pulled in \$7.5 million for the weekend and \$10 million since opening Thursday. The movie is based on the first



This publicity film image released by 20th Century Fox shows Bruce Willis as John McClane, left, Jai Courtney as his son Jack, center and Sebastian Koch as Komarov in a scene from "A Good Day to Die Hard."

in the best-selling series about a Southern misfit (Alden Ehrenreich) who falls under the spell of a teen witch (Alice Englert).

"A Good Day to Die Hard"

1. **"A Good Day to Die Hard,"** \$25 million (\$61.5 million international).
2. **"Identity Thief,"** \$23.4 million (\$180,000 international).
3. **"Safe Haven,"** \$21.4 million (\$2.6 million international).
4. **"Escape from Planet Earth,"** \$16.1 million.
5. **"Beautiful Creatures,"** \$9 million (\$4.9 million international).
6. **"Side Effects,"** \$6.3 million.
7. **"Silver Linings Playbook,"** \$6.1 million (\$6.5 million international).
8. **"Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters,"** \$3.5 million (\$9.5 million international).
9. **"Warm Bodies,"** \$3.1 million (\$2.9 million international).
10. **"Zero Dark Thirty,"** \$3.1 million (\$2.9 million international).

did solid business despite bad reviews for the latest installment, which sends Willis' McClane to Moscow in search of his estranged son, an undercov-

er spy who winds up teaming with the old man against Russian bad guys.

The movie's success follows notable flops from two other holdovers of the 1980s action scene, Sylvester Stallone with "Bullet to the Head" and Arnold Schwarzenegger with "The Last Stand."

"There's still life left in the 'Die Hard' franchise. Given the fact that pretty much every other R-rated action movie that's come out this year has completely fallen flat, this is a pretty good showing," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

## 5 great Bruce Willis performances

By CHRISTY LEMIRE  
AP MOVIE CRITIC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—By now it's clear that nothing and no one can kill Bruce Willis, whose fifth film in the "Die Hard" franchise, the horribly titled "A Good Day to Die Hard," opens this week.

It is not his finest hour. At 57, he still wreaks havoc and looks great in a tight T-shirt but he doesn't seem to be enjoying himself very much. Still, it's a good opportunity to look back at five of the best performances in Willis' eclectic, enduring career:

### ■ "DIE HARD" (1988)

I had a huge crush on him as the quick-witted David Addison on "Moonlighting," which seems kinda creepy in retrospect, given that I was in junior high when the series launched and he's 17 years old than I am. But that role set the stage for the character that

would go on to define his career: wisecracking New York cop John McClane. Willis is at his charismatic best in this '80s action classic: swaggering, smart-alecky and resourceful, but, at his core, just a regular guy trying to outwit the Euro baddies. The fact that he's not a superhero actually gives the character more power.

### ■ "PULP FICTION" (1994)

One of the most important and influential movies of the 1990s, of course, with Willis in a role that lets him put all his talents on display at once. As a boxer named Butch who's supposed to throw a fight but ends up winning it instead, Willis is tough but tender, powerful yet vulnerable. Quentin Tarantino is in love with words and Willis is an excellent fit for his peculiar brand of verbosity; he's also very much up for the, um, many freaky and physical demands of appearing in a Tarantino film.

### ■ "THE SIXTH SENSE" (1999)

If Willis' characters in the '80s were all about cunning and bravado, the late '90s and 2000s frequently found him in a more introspective mode, especially in this hell-of-a-twist blockbuster from M. Night Shyamalan. (The two would reteam the next year for another supernatural thriller, "Unbreakable," in which Willis is also very good in a low-key way.) Willis is the ghost at the center of this ghost story, a child psychologist working with a little boy (Haley Joel Osment) who, famously, sees dead people. The muting of Willis' action-star persona is what's so effective here; his quiet melancholy adds to the chilly mood.

### ■ "SIN CITY" (2005)

Willis once again plays a cop—John Hartigan, the last honest cop in this corrupt town—searching for an 11-year-old girl who would go on to become an

exotic dancer played by Jessica Alba. In Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller's gloriously stylized graphic novel-film mashup, Willis is the traditionally hardened, world-weary anti-hero looking to clear his name. It's a performance filled with both regret and determination, much of which he spells out in dramatic but understated voiceover.

### ■ "MOONRISE KINGDOM" (2012)

Wes Anderson's best live-action movie since "Rushmore" is all about the kids: two precocious pre-teens who fall in love and run off together but have nowhere to go on an insular New England island. Still, the adults provide an excellent supporting cast, including Willis as the island's lonely sheriff on the hunt for the runaways. There's great subtlety and sadness to his performance; you look at his character and the middle-aged rut he's gotten himself into and pray that these love-struck kids don't similarly lose their spark.

# 'Argo,' 'Zero Dark Thirty' win at Writers Guild

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The CIA thrillers "Argo" and "Zero Dark Thirty" have won top screenplay honors from the Writers Guild of America.

The guild's adapted screenplay award Sunday went to Chris Terrio for "Argo," director Ben Affleck's tale of the CIA's daring masquerade of six U.S. diplomats as a Hollywood film crew to rescue them from Iran during the hostage crisis there.

Mark Boal won the prize for original screenplay for "Zero Dark Thirty," director Kathryn Bigelow's chronicle of the CIA's manhunt for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Director Malik Bendjelloul won the documentary award for "Searching for Sugar Man," his portrait of acclaimed but largely forgotten 1970s musician Rodriguez. The guild was the last of Hollywood's major trade unions to weigh in on the year's top films before next Sunday's Academy Awards.

"Argo" has emerged as the best-picture favorite for the Oscars after sweeping top prizes at earlier film honors, including the



This film image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Bryan Cranston, left, as Jack O'Donnell and Ben Affleck as Tony Mendez in "Argo," a rescue thriller about the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis. AP

Golden Globes and awards from the Directors Guild of America, the Screen Actors Guild and the Producers Guild of America.

Among the guild's TV winners:

■ Drama series: "Breaking

Bad," written by Sam Catlin, Vince Gilligan, Peter Gould, Gennifer Hutchison, George Mastras, Thomas Schnauz and Moira Walley-Beckett.

■ Comedy series: "Louie," written by Pamela Adlon, Ver-

non Chatman and Louis C.K.

■ New series: "Girls," written by Judd Apatow, Lesley Arfin, Lena Dunham, Sarah Heyward, Bruce Eric Kaplan, Jenni Konner, Deborah Schoeneman and Dan Sterling.

## Discovery bets on 2 dope series about pot growers

NEW YORK (AP)—Cupcake makers, pawnbrokers and storage container raiders have all had their moments in reality television's spotlight. Now the time may be right for marijuana growers—and the people who chase them.

The Discovery network debuts a six-episode series, "Weed Country," at 10 p.m. Wednesday and will replace it with "Pot Cops" in April. Both examine the marijuana trade in northern California.

It fits Discovery's efforts to introduce interesting subcultures to viewers, said Nancy Daniels,

the network's executive vice president for production and development on the West Coast. Discovery tried a series about a medical marijuana dispensary in Oakland two years ago, "Weed Wars," and is sticking with dope even though the show didn't do very well in the ratings. "We still think it's an interesting world and maybe we didn't tap into the right part of it," Daniels said.

Based on its first episode, "Weed Country" is a nuanced effort at giving equal time to both sides of the issue. Producers find colorful growers who use science

to make the best product possible. They don't believe what they are doing is wrong. "We're flying the flag of civil disobedience," one grower said.

The growers may be trying to dodge the law, but don't hesitate to open up different facets of their business to television cameras.

At the same time, "Weed Country" shows the challenges faced by law enforcement. It follows one group's careful training for backwoods missions to find farms guarded by growers who are armed and intent upon protecting their crops.

"It surprised me with how deep and complex it was," Daniels said.

The show does have some distracting reality TV contrivances. Before one commercial break, a grower making a late-night delivery to a customer becomes suspicious of a van that ominously pulls out behind him on a dark road. After the break, the van drives innocently by. At another point, producers lead you to believe the grower is about to be pulled over by police when, after a commercial, it becomes clear the officer is going after someone else.

## C-SPAN begins 35-episode series on first ladies

NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Farkas is used to his teenage daughters showing little interest in his work. After all, he is a producer at terminally unhip C-SPAN.

This time is different. The girls are intrigued by some of the stories Farkas is finding for the public service network's series on first ladies. The 35-episode series begins with an overview Monday, on President's Day, and ends with an hour on Michelle Obama next Feb. 10.

The series gives C-SPAN the chance to look at political and social history through a different prism, said Farkas, its executive producer. The White House Historical Association is teaming with C-SPAN to make it, after the idea came from a network historian who had been working on an oral history of White House social secretaries.

"The more digging that we did, we found that so many of these women were influential and had fascinating biographies," he said.

James Madison's wife, Dolly, set the tone for the roles played by presidential spouses and was sought after for advice by first

ladies who followed her, Farkas said. He considers Madison and Eleanor Roosevelt, who held regular news conferences and called upon news organizations to send female reporters, the most influential first ladies.

All have settled on roles corresponding to their interests, up to Mrs. Obama's focus on military families and children's fitness.

Most of the women—there's been no first man yet—get a single 90-minute episode in C-SPAN's series. In a few cases, a handful of 19th century first ladies have their stories compressed into one program. Anna Harrison, for example, never made it to the White House: She stayed in Ohio recovering from an illness and was packing for Washington when her husband, William Henry Harrison, died one month into his term.

The first ladies had particularly divergent roles in the nation's first century, when women did not have the right to vote. Abigail Adams was a strong writer and stood



Obama

up for women, Farkas noted. Lucy Hayes was the first college-educated first lady and was considered more popular at the time than her husband, Rutherford B.

Hayes. She set up the annual Easter Egg Roll, a tradition that continues today, and banned alcohol from the White House.

Franklin Pierce's wife, Jane, had the most tragic story. She never wanted her husband to run for president. Two of the couple's children died before age 5 and the lone survivor, 11-year-old Benjamin, was killed in a train accident while traveling with his parents two months before inauguration. Jane Pierce spent most of her time in the White House residence and didn't make an official appearance as first lady until two years into her husband's term.

"Even if that hadn't happened, I'm not sure she would have been prepared for the role," said Farkas, who has also produced C-SPAN series on presidents, unsuccessful presidential candidates and the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

## Son no longer living at home should move his stuff or pay

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: While I always enjoy your column, I thought your advice to "Wants My Space" (Dec. 14), whose son "Dustin" moved away five years ago and expects her to keep his room as he left it, was off the mark. I would have told Dustin what I have told both of my daughters several times: It is not "your" room; I merely let you use it.

Not only is "Wants" not obligated to use her home as a storage facility, she's doing her son a disservice by doing it under these circumstances. At 24, he needs to learn that if he wants a service, it's his obligation to procure it. There are plenty of businesses that can fulfill his needs at a reasonable price.

MATT IN PROVIDENCE FORGE, VA.

DEAR MATT: For the most part, readers agreed with you, and they offered their own "take" on how to accomplish the removal of the young man's belongings:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: An acquaintance of mine had a similar problem with his son. The son expected his dad to provide storage space at no charge for an indefinite length of time. My friend told his son: "No way! You get it out of here within six months, or I'll sell it and keep the money for storage fees."

He didn't think his father would actually do it. Well, he was wrong. And now the younger siblings don't even think of leaving any of their stuff at the father's house.

SHIRLEY IN CHULA VISTA, CALIF.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My parents, while not upset with still having their four adult children's belongings in their home, solved their dilemma in a unique way. One Christmas we all gathered at their house and were delighted to find heaps of presents under the tree. Concerned that our folks had way overspent, imagine our surprise when we unwrapped the packages and found all of our own belongings! It was an inventive and effective way to clear out the attic and basement. We still talk about it to this day—a warm Christmas memory.

KATIE IN NEWARK, DEL.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Wants" is blessed that Dustin voiced his desire for his mom to keep his stuff. My mother continued asking me if I wanted my stuff for years. I said no, until one day, yes, I did. My parents are no longer alive, and I treasure the little stuffed dog that was my very first Christmas present.

I'd advise "Wants" to return some of the items to her son from time to time in the form of gifts. To him, they are treasures, and they can be returned in a way that won't make him feel betrayed.

IRENE IN OWOSSO, MICH.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Dustin should either pay rent to his mother or move his stuff out. If he doesn't, he has abandoned it and she can dispose of it as she sees fit, since it's her house to do with as she pleases. In all fairness, a deadline is reasonable, but it's been five YEARS—why give him six more months? Enough mollycoddling.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Dustin may be lucky his mom wants his stuff out. My mom insisted on keeping my room exactly as I had left it as a shrine. I was glad not to have to move all my coin, toy and stamp collections and the other things from my first 18 years.

However, subsequently Mom allowed a young male relative to use my room, and he lost, stole or destroyed all of my memories. I was and am still sad, but I never told my mom 'cause "that's life."

CHARLIE IN FLORIDA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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# West beats East in NBA All-Star Game, 143-138



**H O U S T O N**  
(AP)—Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and Kobe Bryant turned this All-Star game into L.A. story.

Paul had 20 points, 15 assists and won MVP honors, Bryant blocked LeBron James' comeback attempt, and the Western Conference beat the East 143-138 on Sunday night.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points and Griffin finished with 19, joining his Clippers teammate, Paul, in creating Lob City deep in the heart of Texas.

"You just want to play fast. I like to throw the lob. I like to see guys hit 3s," Paul said. "When we're out on the court with all that firepower, why wouldn't you want to make passes? You've got KD filling one of the lanes, you've got Blake, Kobe on the wing. There's nothing like it."

James scored 19 points but shot only 7 of 18, Bryant blocking two of his shots late, after having no shooting troubles during the latter part of the season's first half. Carmelo Anthony led the East with 26 points and 12 rebounds.

"I think we played really

good defense at the end of the game as a team," Durant said. "Kobe was really going with the ball. It's tough to stop LeBron, but he did his best. He was able to block a few of his shots. But CP did a really good job of keeping us in the game."

On Michael Jordan's 50th birthday, the All-Stars threw down plenty of jams reminiscent of MJ's glory days.

The first dunk of the game came 16 seconds in, Paul throwing a pass to Griffin as part of the West's 7-0 start. The West led after each of the first three quarters, though was never ahead by more than eight points through three periods.

They finally pushed it into double figures early in the fourth fueled by former Oklahoma City teammates Russell Westbrook and James Harden, but couldn't put it away until a late run behind the guys from the city of Los Angeles—who along with Lakers center Dwight Howard gave Los Angeles all but one of the West's starting spots.

Paul hit two 3-pointers, Bryant made a layup, and his block of James led to Durant's dunk that made it 136-126. Griffin

had one last forceful dunk to help close it out, throwing a pass to himself off the backboard and climbing high in his neon green sneakers to slam it home and make it 142-134.

Harden had 15 points in his home arena, where the sights of the game were on the floor and the sounds were at the rim—which shook repeatedly after thunderous dunks for most of the game before, as usual, players tried to make some stops down the stretch.

Players' sneakers were a variety of pastels and fluorescent colors that looked like they came right from Easter Sunday church, many clashing so badly with their multi-colored socks that they may as well have been created by spilling out random paint buckets.

James and Dwyane Wade wore purple, and Griffin's neon look was also sported by the usually not-so-loud Tim Duncan and Brook Lopez.

But the NBA's high-flyers sure could leap in them.

Durant slammed one down so hard at one point that he stumbled backward after landing, appearing woozy. He came in as the career leader in points



AP  
West Team's Chris Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers shoots against East Team's LeBron James of the Miami Heat during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013, in Houston.

## Kings dominate Stern's last All-Star briefing

**HOUSTON** (AP)—No new details on Sacramento against Seattle, though the next All-Star decision might be New York versus New York.

NBA Commissioner David Stern fielded numerous questions Saturday but provided little news about the future of the Sacramento Kings during his last All-Star weekend press conference. A Seattle group has reached an agreement to buy the team from the Maloof family with the goal of moving it to the Northwest, and Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson is trying to keep the Kings in California's capital.

Stern said owners will continue to discuss the plans and will hear from Mayor Kevin Johnson with the goal of deciding at their April board meeting. Without saying how, Stern said Sacramento has a chance of beating out what he has said is a strong bid from the Seattle group.

"Oh, certainly it's plausible to me, but I don't have a vote," Stern said. "But I expect the owners to have a very open mind on this. And it isn't plausible yet to talk about it until the predicates have been fulfilled."

Stern plans to retire on Feb. 1, 2014, on what would be the 30th anniversary of his appointment to the job. The 2014 game is going to New Orleans, and deputy commissioner Adam Silver said the 2015 event is likely headed to either the Knicks' Madison Square Garden or the new Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Silver didn't say when a

decision would be made. The New York bids are not the only ones the league is considering.

Sacramento may be out of the NBA business by then. A Seattle group led by Chris Hansen and Steve Ballmer has reached an agreement with the Maloof family to buy 65 percent of the franchise, which is valued at \$525 million, and move the team to Seattle and restore the SuperSonics name. The deal will cost the Hansen group a little more than \$340 million.

Johnson has asked for and been granted a chance to deliver a competing offer, which is expected by March 1, and to address the board. And he insists his city has a "competitive advantage" because the NBA previously approved Sacramento's financing plans for a new arena last year when it thought it had brokered a deal between the Maloofs and the city that the owners later pulled out of.

"We're going to deliver a brand new arena downtown. At the end of the day, that's a key variable and I think it gives us a competitive advantage," Johnson said in a separate press conference. "We have a deal that was approved by the NBA already, where the city has a significant public investment that we're willing to put forward, to build a brand new arena. That's a key reason why unfortunately a team left Seattle and why teams do leave, is you can't get arena deals done."

Stern was asked if the decision will come down strictly to the arena deal.

"This is strictly about what

the owners decide," he said. "There's a great and strong application from a terrific city to bring in a third and possibly a fourth team in a brand-new building, well-financed ownership group, without the ability yet to build, because there are several things that have to be overcome. But that's really good. So if you're a commissioner, you like that."

Johnson came to Houston in hopes of gaining support for Sacramento, though he and Stern have not met and there are no plans for a meeting. His fight for the Kings contrasts somewhat with the response Stern got from Washington politicians before the SuperSonics eventually moved to Oklahoma City. Stern recalled that the Seahawks and Mariners got public funding for new stadiums that wasn't available for the Sonics.

Stern said it "saddened" him to depart because Seattle was a great city, but that "history was being rewritten" about the way the NBA left it.

With reporters from both cities jamming the room where his press conference was held, and occasionally appearing bored by their repeated questions, Stern added he couldn't see any scenario in which both Seattle and Sacramento would be happy. He and Silver both doubt expansion is something that would be considered soon.

He said the committees which will decide in April have a difficult choice.

"This is a good time to be a commissioner and not an owner," Stern said.

per game with 28.3 and may have won a second straight MVP award if not for Paul's big finish.

The Bryant-James duel down the stretch was a good one between the two players who are most often compared to Jordan.

"It was all in good spirit, man. It was just two guys that love to compete, love to go at it. So I had a lot of fun," James said.

Bryant finished with only nine points but had eight assists. Griffin shot 9 of 11 from the field and didn't miss until trying to violently throw one down from a few feet away from the basket.

Indiana's Paul George scored 17 and Kyrie Irving had 15 for the East.

Not everybody had it so easy. Chris Bosh shot two airballs in the first quarter and was booed, tossed up another in the second, and had Tony Parker dribble the

ball through his legs on defense. He was even pulled down the stretch by his own coach, Erik Spoelstra, right after Bryant blew right by him for a layup.

Bosh finished 3 of 9. Wade had 21 points on 10-of-13 shooting, the best performance of the three Heat players in the starting lineup.

There were plenty of laughs, players performing comedic skits and poking fun at each other on the Toyota Center's massive overhead scoreboard. Even the celebrities that surrounded the court—Westbrook almost crashed into Beyoncé and Jay-Z while trying for a first-half steal—seemed entertained.

Two of Houston's biggest basketball stars, Hakeem Olajuwon and Yao Ming, who was honored after the first quarter, and Olympic gold medalists Usain Bolt and Gabby Douglas were among the athletes who

weren't in the game.

Players wore warmup jackets with patches commemorating their individual and team career accolades during a lengthy pregame that included a performance by Ne-Yo. They actually warmed up twice, needing to get loose again after watching and being introduced during the elaborate show.

The game capped a weekend of change in Texas, where David Stern presided over his final All-Star game as commissioner and players' association executive director Billy Hunter was voted out of office—a result he seems likely to contest.

Boston's Kevin Garnett said before coming to Houston he thought his 15th All-Star selection would be his last, and turned it over to the young guys early. He played only 6 minutes of the first half before calling it a night.

# Merrick gets his first win at home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Merrick never allowed himself to think about winning at Riviera.

Not when he was a kid attending his local PGA Tour event. Not when he was at UCLA and could play the fabled course. And certainly not late Sunday afternoon in a playoff when he faced a daunting 3-iron shot under a row of eucalyptus trees, and his opponent was in the middle of the fairway with a wedge in his hand.

No wonder Merrick was at a loss for words when he won the Northern Trust Open.

"Yeah, you dream," Merrick said, his eyes still glossy. "When you're alone sometimes, you think about different scenarios

of winning tournaments. It was fun. We would always play here at UCLA and have great games out here. To be able to play the tournament was a dream of mine. But to win? I can't describe it. It's so much fun."

Merrick hit the perfect shot under the trees on the 18th to escape with par, and he followed with another flawless shot to a skinny section of the 10th green on the second playoff hole to 18 feet. He made another par, and won when Charlie Beljan missed a 5-foot par putt.

It was the second straight year the Northern Trust Open was decided in a playoff on the 10th, a diabolical par 4 at 315 yards that requires skill and strategy, a hole where players are happy to walk off with par. Beljan made bogey twice on the 10th, once in a regulation and then when the tournament was on the line.

He went long and left both

times, and in the playoff, his chip didn't quite reach the green and he took three putts from 70 feet.

"I think you could play here 10,000 times and still not know how to play No. 10," he said. "Eighteen is a great golf hole. I just find it tough that we go to No. 10 to play a playoff hole. I think it's a great hole, don't get me wrong. I'm not knocking it. But it's just a tough hole to have a playoff on. We might as well go and put a windmill out there and hit some putts."

Beljan, famous for having an anxiety attack when he won at Disney late last year, holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole, similar to the theatrics provided last year by Phil

Mickelson and Keegan Bradley, to close with a 4-under 67 and wind up in a playoff.

Merrick, who grew up in Long Beach, had a number of big breaks on the back nine. None was bigger than his second shot on the par-5 17th headed toward the trees, only to find that he had just enough of a gap to go for the green and make par. He had a 69 and finished on 11-under 273.

He also hit the trees with his tee shot on the 15th, and while it left him a hybrid to reach the green, it could have gone anywhere.

"You give me 100 balls off that tee, I'm not going to be there in that spot," Merrick said. "I just hit a bad tee shot and was able to make par there."

Such are the breaks it takes to win, and for Merrick, it was a long time coming. He won in his 169th start on the PGA Tour, earned another trip to the Masters



AP

John Merrick, left, poses with his wife Jody and their children Chase, 1, and Gemma, 1 month old, after his victory in the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013.

and is virtually assured to qualifying for his first World Golf Championship next month at Doral.

Fredrik Jacobson missed a 4-foot par putt on the 18th hole that would have put the Swede in a playoff. He wound up with a 69 and tied for third with Charl Schwartzel (70) and Bill Haas (73), who also had chances to win at different stages in their rounds.

The final round contained far more drama than anyone imagined at the start of the day, when Haas had a three-shot lead. Six players were separated by one shot going into the final hour at Riviera, and it easily could have been a repeat of that six-man playoff in 2001 in the cold rain.

This pleasant day of bright

sunshine brought a few cloudy moments.

Hunter Mahan was tied for the lead after a 30-foot birdie on the 14th, only to drop four shots on the last four holes. Nothing stung worse than the par-5 17th, where he three-putted from about 30 feet for bogey. He wound up with a 69. Jacobson was tied for the lead when he missed an 8-foot birdie attempt on the 17th, and then badly pulled a 4-foot par putt on the last hole and missed out on the playoff. The Swede closed with a 69, and bristled when asked about the final hole.

"You want me to touch that one, only that one? I cannot speak about something else?" he said, before eventually conceding. "The last putt wasn't very good."

No one was more disgusted than Schwartzel, the former Masters champion. One shot out of the lead, he missed a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-3 16th, and then three-putted the 17th, missing a 6-footer for birdie. He closed with a 70 and tied for third, his seventh straight finish in the top five around the world.

Haas faded much sooner. He made five bogeys in a seven-hole stretch in the middle of his round, and his birdie-birdie finish allowed him to tie for third.

"Positives to be taken, but overall, you don't get this many opportunities," Haas said. "A three-shot lead at one of the best tournaments of the year is a great opportunity that I squandered."

Haas looked to be in good posi-

tion to join Mickelson, Mike Weir, Corey Pavin and Ben Hogan as the only back-to-back winners at Riviera. And when he dropped in a 30-foot birdie putt on the third hole, he looked as though he would be tough to catch.

Instead of running away from the field, he let everyone back into the tournament. Haas made back-to-back bogeys late on the front nine, and his lead was down to one when he made the turn. It all began to take shape at No. 10, the hole where a year ago Haas holed a 45-foot birdie putt to win in a playoff.

Merrick laid up on the short par 4, and his wedge was inches from tumbling into a front bunker when it checked up on the fringe. He made birdie from just inside 15 feet and tied Haas for the lead.

Beljan went just through the green and rolled down a slope into the rough, and from there he pitched too strong and into the bunker. He failed to get up-and-down and made bogey to fall out of the lead for the first time all day, and he never caught up. His tee shots sailed into the trees and into the rough, and he was out of the picture.

Beljan's only bogey in the final round was on the 10th hole. He was flawless the rest of the way, until coming to the 10th hole in a playoff with the tournament on the line.

"I made every clutch putt that you would ever ask to make," Beljan said. "And then to make that putt on 18 and hear the roar was really special. Obviously, not the way I wanted to end it, but you know what? You win some, you lose some, and that's how it goes."

an appearance at the U.S. Drake Relays in Iowa.

Van Zyl's decision to cancel those races was first reported by the AP on Saturday. All others that were still in negotiation were also now called off, Van Zyl said on Sunday.

The high-profile rematch with Oliveira, who beat Pistorius in the 200 meters at the London Paralympics last year, was to be a straight line 200 race on Copacabana beach to promote the 2016 Rio Olympics and Paralympics.

The runner's main goal for 2013 was to qualify for the worlds in Moscow in August, which is now almost certainly not going to happen.

Pistorius was the first amputee athlete to run at the world championships in 2011, then made history when he competed at last year's Olympics in London.

He and his coach have both said that they aimed to retire from track after the Rio Games, but one of the world's most famous athletes, who fought for years to be allowed to run against able-bodied competitors, is now facing the possibility he will never go to any major meet again.

## Future races canceled in wake of Pistorius charge

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Oscar Pistorius' agent has canceled all future track races so the double-amputee Olympian can focus on the murder charge against him, underscoring the possibility the disabled sports icon might never again run competitively on his famous carbon fiber blades.

Pistorius is defending himself against allegations he murdered his model girlfriend by shooting her several times in his upscale house on Valentine's Day morning.

Reeva Steenkamp died from gunshot wounds suffered inside Pistorius' home in the predawn hours of Thursday. Pistorius was arrested and charged with her murder the same day. His family denies he murdered her.

"I have decided that following these tragic events that we have no option but to cancel all future races that Oscar Pistorius had been contracted to compete in," agent Peet van Zyl said in a written statement late Sunday night.

A few hours earlier, Van Zyl had visited his athlete at a po-

lice station in the South African capital, Pretoria, where he is being held in custody in a red-bricked, one-story building with green metal fencing.

Pistorius has been there since Friday following the shocking developments at his villa in a gated community in Pretoria's eastern suburbs where Steenkamp was shot dead.

Her death and Pistorius' arrest stunned South Africans, who revered Pistorius for his humble nature and success at overcoming adversity to become an international star, despite having his lower legs amputated as a baby.

Pistorius still had "overwhelming support" from his fans, Van Zyl said as he left Brooklyn police station, but the agent steered away from a question from a reporter on what Pistorius' emotional state was now like following the death of his girlfriend and a possible realization that his entire career was in ruins.

Pistorius was quickly arrested and charged with murder Thursday, with prosecutors saying at his first court appearance a day later that they would pursue a more serious premeditated murder charge, which carries a life sentence.

Pistorius broke down and wept in the court, with his face in his hands. His family later

denied he murdered Steenkamp and said the state's own evidence "strongly refutes" any possibility of a murder.

"I am not going to comment on anything except that (what) is related to his athletics career at this point in time," Van Zyl told reporters outside the police station after being asked how Pistorius was coping. "Obviously from a management side and also as a friend, it's a tragic circumstance and events that have unfolded and we can only give Oscar our support at this point in time."

Family members and his lawyers also visited Pistorius on Sunday, but declined comment both when they arrived and when they left the city center police station.

The family of Steenkamp, a model, law graduate and budding reality TV star, told The Associated Press that her body had been released by police after an autopsy and was back in their hometown of Port Elizabeth on South Africa's southern coast.

"Reeva is back home," the

late model's brother, Adam Steenkamp, told the AP by phone. He had flown back from Britain, where he now lives, to be with the family.

They also said Steenkamp's funeral would be held Tuesday and would be a private ceremony for family at a local crematorium. Media would not be allowed in.

The main purpose for Van Zyl's visit to Brooklyn police station Sunday afternoon was to discuss Pistorius' running career, but "also to visit him as a friend and give him my moral support," the agent said. "On a personal level I wanted to offer my support to Oscar, who I have known and worked with for the last seven years and consider a friend and a great professional athlete."

Following the meeting, Van Zyl announced publicly that the five races that Pistorius had confirmed for in 2013 were canceled: two in Australia in March, exhibition races against fellow Paralympic champions Alan Oliveira of Brazil and Jonnie Peacock of Britain, and

# Veterans, Jumpers advance to Rocball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The Veterans and Jumpers swept their respective semis foes to march into the finals of the 2012-2013 Rocball Fall League.

The Veterans ousted the Teachers in the best-of-three semis series played last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, while the Jumpers

also recorded a sweep versus the Smack Dat in the other Final Four pairing. The Jumpers and Veterans will square off in a best-of-five championship showdown.

The Jumpers took the easier way to the finals after juicing out Smack Dat in Games 1 and 2. A juiced-out victory is given to the team that won the fourth set and also had the lead at the end of regulation. In Game 1, the Jumpers prevailed in the first two sets, dropped and

third, but won the fourth for a 48-33 triumph.

In Game 2, the Jumpers and Smack Dat split the four sets, but the former stole the win after shutting out the latter in the final set. Smack Dat was still ahead after the third set, 31-29, before the Jumpers caught the former off guard in the finale.

In the other semis pairing, the Veterans cruised to a 50-32 victory in Game 1. The eventual finalists took the first two sets, 12-9, 14-4, before the Teachers

recovered in the third set, 13-11. The Veterans then avoided an upset with an 11-6 triumph in the fourth set.

In Game 2, the Teachers fought hard and forced an okon (overtime). The Veterans moved closer to a finals stint after sweeping the first three set, but the Teachers were not ready to give up and prevailed in the fourth set to send Game 2 in overtime. In the extra period, the Veterans needed to win only one set went on to end the Teachers'

hopes for a Game 3 with a 7-0 victory in overtime.

Meanwhile, Rocball creator Jim Feger said visiting students from Yokohama, Japan, will be playing against MHS players either this Thursday or Friday as part of the schools cultural and sports exchange program.

In other Rocball updates, Feger said he is waiting for results of Indian's national U14 and U18 girls competition and the national certification clinic for referees.

## WHITE

From Page 28

could not wait to get back on the court and governed a swift 21-8 finals victory.

It can be recalled that Chen-Knohl's Lizama won the event last year with former partner Toni Yamada.

Both of Murasakis' shortcomings came against the girls champs as they defeated We Know We Can Spike, Spicy Pinoy (21-9), the Sparks (21-19) leading into the upper bracket semis.

Magalahi fared well as well after being bumped down by the local pride in the second and rebounded over Tu Madre, Sheps (21-19), Sparks (21-15), and Spicy Pinoy (21-11) en route to

the lower bracket semis.

The Top 3 place finishers were presented with medals and all participants received free T-shirts upon registration.

### Pros on-island

During breaks, the nine visiting professional volleyball players from the U.S., Canada, and Japan played in some exhibition matches and mingled in with the crowd for autograph signings and photo opportunities.

The pros include four-time Marianas Beach Volleyball Cup men's champions Daisuke Matsumoto and Junki Hattabe of Japan who are back and looking for their fifth straight title.

Their female colleagues, former women's champions

Megumi Murikami and Miyuki Matsumura also made the trip as well as veteran pro Shinako Tanaka and newcomers Saku Fujii and Angela Ishida.

From the U.S. came California's Will Montgomery, Try Borne, and Jenn Snyder along with Jaclyne Jallos of British Columbia, Canada.

The players have become friends through competing on the AVP tour in the states and the JVB tour in Japan.

Borne and Montgomery caught wind of the event from fellow pro Paul Baxter who appeared in last year's episode.

Jallos lives in San Diego and is close friends with Snyder who is making her fifth Marianas Cup appearance in six years;

they met during a volleyball vacation at the Turks and Caicos.

All of the players, especially those returning are excited to be competing in Guam, but the majority of the group is actually more familiar with Saipan than the neighboring island.

During their stay the athletes held a youth beach volleyball clinic for students and also observed NMIVA's Sunset Beach Volleyball Coed tourney finals at Fiesta last Wednesday and Friday.

The Japanese players have been undergoing training sessions as well, but some got a chance to check out historical sites like Banzai Cliff and visited the American Memorial Museum.

The West Coast players in-

## MIKAYLA

From Page 28

Joining Lopez in the champions circle were Carol Lee, Malika Miyawaki, Jireh Warren, Thea Minor, Dylan Ackerman, and Vincent Tudela.

Lee also recorded a first when she defeated Isabel Heras in the girls U15 finale yesterday, 8-5. Lee bowed to Negahr in the U15 finals of the

Tan Holdings Classic in November last year. Emily Jones rounded out the Top 3 after dominating Liza Atalig in the consolation game, 8-2.

In the U12 title match, Miyawaki downed Tania Tan, 8-5, for the former's first win in her new age group after advancing only in the semifinals in her debut in the higher division late last year. Grace Choi joined Miyawaki and Tan in the Top 3

after prevailing over U12 newcomer Asia Raulerson, 8-4.

In the round-robin girls U10, Warren was flawless in three games to clinch the championship against Ellie Epley (2-1), Erika Tuttle (1-2), and Maria Gregoire (0-3).

In the boys U18, Minor, the only female player in the field, handed Amami Sakano another runner-up finish after prevailing in their title game yesterday,

8-3. Sakano also fell to Christian Miller, 4-8, in last year's White Coconut Classic. Event top seed Rafael Jones settled for third place this year after surviving Tommy Choi in the consolation match, 9-8 (7-4).

In the boys U15, Ackerman made it two in a row against Michael Ren after cruising to an 8-2 triumph yesterday. Ackerman and Ren also met in the Tan Holdings finale with the former

winning, 6-2, 6-2. Moris Villanueva joined Ren and Ackerman in the Top 3, following his 8-3 victory over Colin Ramsey.

In the U12 division, Tudela claimed his first championship in his new age group after defeating Joshua Abragan, 8-2, while the winner of the boys U10 crown has yet to be decided at press time, as the Aditya Rai-Gang Min Kim finale yesterday morning was rained-out.

## CT KINGS

From Page 28

A pairing, the CT Kings (2-1) slipped past Saipan TV (2-3), 62-61.

Preston Basa made the winning basket for the CT Kings, connecting on a triple from left key with 26 seconds left in the closely fought match. Saipan TV then muffed its multiple chances of stealing the victory, missing at least four shots with the last one off an inside attempt

from Brendon Talania.

The crucial trey was Basa's only field goal in the fourth quarter, but he still top-scored for the CT Kings with his 13 markers, matching the output of Pete Lizama.

Lizama had a strong start for the Kings, nailing 11 points in the opening period to lift his team to a 21-12 lead. Lizama was then held to two free throws in the second canto, while Bernard Aquino started to hit up, drilling two triples and 8 points

to put Saipan TV on top at the break, 33-32.

The game remained tight in the third with Basa closing out the quarter with 5 straight points to keep the deficit to a hair, 50-51. The fourth quarter was then a seesaw battle with Justin Zapanta answering every basket from Saipan TV with his 10 points and Basa helping him out in the end.

In the curtain raiser, the ICS Shooters was on target in the final canto to turn a close match

to the 11-point victory.

The ICS Shooters hung on to a shaky 49-48 lead after the third when Myler David and Renan Lansang teamed up in the fourth-quarter assault. Lansang dropped all his 12 markers in the final canto, while David chipped in 8, as the ICS Shooters outgunned JWS in the fourth, 24-14. JWS made only five field goals and only Rodmar Diaz canned more than two baskets and connected them when the game was already in the bag for

the ICS Shooters.

David paced the ICS Shooters with his 27 points, while Resty Corotan also finished in twin digits with 10. White Capalad led JWS with his 13 markers, but was scoreless in the fourth canto.

### First Game

**ICS Shooters 73** – David 27, R. Lansang 12, Corotan 10, Guntar 4, Mallari 4, Enriquez 4, E. Lansang 4, Tala 2.

**JWS 62** – Capalad 13, Canoy

## YANKEES

From Page 28

The Brewers would remain silent for the next three frames, while the Yankees would trudge further ahead, 9-0, with four runs in the top of the third inning off one hit, some sketchy pitching, and a sacrifice fly by Greg Iskawa.

The Yankees went on to add two more runs in the fourth off three hits before the Brewers finally hit the board.

The Brew Crew managed to decrease its deficit to 5-11 in the bottom of the fifth inning of a couple of early errors and three

hits including an RBI single by Diego Camacho, but the Yankees would hold on through the final four innings of regulation though Brewers' Leonard Sablan hustled out an inside-the-park home run to right field in the eighth inning that also brought around Juan Iguel.

Brewers' Jared Sablan and Yankees' Jack Castro also singled on and scored for their respective teams in the sixth and seventh exchanges.

Yankees' Greg Camacho swung 3-for-4 with three runs, while Iskawa went 2-for-2 with an RBI and a sacrifice fly.

**Yankees 13, D-9ers 2**

The Yankees managed a couple of runners in both the first and third innings, but the D-9ers kept them away from the plate.

The Yankees' defense started off even more efficient and logged four three up and three down exchanges from the get go, but the D-9ers pierced its armor with a run in the bottom of the fifth inning off two hits and a fielder's choice.

Rocco Reyes and Martin Sablan both led off the frame with base knocks and the former scored after a couple of connections by Andave Camacho and Juan Acosta.

The D-9ers had capped a

couple of 1-2-3 innings to close the fourth and fifth frames, but the Yankees' Brian Camacho responded to the icebreaker with a one swing of the bat run in the top of the sixth inning to tie the match at 1-1.

According to eyewitness' accounts he belted an opposite field high fly over the right field fence with ease.

The D-9ers then took a brief 2-1 lead in the bottom frame from some pitching blips that led to a sacrifice bunt by Isaia Lizama, scoring Perry Tudela who drew a leadoff walk.

The D-9ers did not capitalize on the opportunity and ended

up stranded on the corners after losing a third in the path, however and it came back to haunt them in a big way in the top of the seventh.

The Yankees were still reeling off the towering jack by its new addition that ultimately knocked D-9ers' starting pitcher B.J. Lizama and jumped all over reliever Dave Jones for 10 runs.

They loaded the bases off a hit, an error and a walk that was followed by two more walks and back-to-back two-RBI doubles by David and Brian Camacho.

The D-9ers first out came off a sacrifice fly by Jerome Delos Santos, but the group stumbled

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NORTHERN TRUST SCORES

LOS ANGELES (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Northern Trust Open, a PGA Tour event played at the 7,349-yard, par-71 Riviera Country Club Course (x-won on second play-off hole).

#### FINAL

x John Merrick (500), \$1,188,000	68-66-70-69-273
Charlie Beljan (300), \$712,800	67-71-68-72-273
Bill Haas (145), \$343,200	70-67-64-73-274
Frederick Jacobson (145), \$343,200	68-65-72-69-274
Charl Schwartzel (145), \$343,200	69-67-68-70-274
Webb Simpson (95), \$229,350	70-66-68-69-275
Josh Teater (95), \$229,350	70-68-68-69-275
Sang-Moon Bae (83), \$198,000	68-65-76-67-276
Hunter Mahan (83), \$198,000	70-69-68-69-276
Greg Chalmers (70), \$165,000	69-68-73-67-277
Ted Potter, Jr. (70), \$165,000	71-67-71-69-278
Adam Scott (70), \$165,000	71-67-70-67-278
Ernie Els (58), \$127,600	70-68-73-68-279
Jim Furyk (58), \$127,600	68-72-69-70-279
Sergio Garcia (58), \$127,600	65-73-69-72-279
Keegan Bradley (53), \$99,000	71-70-69-70-280
Luke Donald (53), \$99,000	69-66-70-75-280
Seung-Yul Noh (53), \$99,000	70-70-71-69-280
John Rollins (53), \$99,000	69-65-77-69-280
Jimmy Walker (53), \$99,000	70-70-71-69-280
Graham DeLaet (48), \$66,000	72-68-69-72-281
Luke Guthrie (48), \$66,000	69-71-71-70-281
Phil Mickelson (48), \$66,000	71-67-72-72-281
Bryce Molder (48), \$66,000	74-65-74-68-281
Cameron Tringale (48), \$66,000	73-69-71-68-281
Lee Westwood (48), \$66,000	68-68-74-71-281
Stewart Cink (42), \$45,870	71-72-67-72-282
Brian Davis (42), \$45,870	70-69-73-70-282
Bob Estes (42), \$45,870	68-72-72-70-282
Ryan Moore (42), \$45,870	70-67-71-64-282
Greg Owen (42), \$45,870	69-71-70-72-282
Kevin Streelman (42), \$45,870	73-69-72-68-282
Angel Cabrera (36), \$35,640	69-72-71-71-283
K.J. Choi (36), \$35,640	71-70-72-70-283
Chris Kirk (36), \$35,640	73-68-73-69-283
George McNeill (36), \$35,6	

# 2012 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Elias Rangamar, right, poses with his family and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos after receiving the 2012 NMASA Female Athlete of the Year award on behalf of her daughter Lia during the 2012 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet held last week at the Kanoa Resort.



Athletes of the Month, from left, Rachel Abrams, Mikayla Lopez, and Negahr Rastguiy, show their certificates of recognition.



Jeff Race, left, receives the Coach of the Year award from Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.



Volleyball's Laurie Peterka and Clay McCullough-Stearns are all smiles after receiving the NMASA Sports Administrator and NMASA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Year awards, respectively.



CNMI Sports Hall of Famer inductee Reno Celis, center, is greeted by fellow Hall of Famer Jess Wabol.



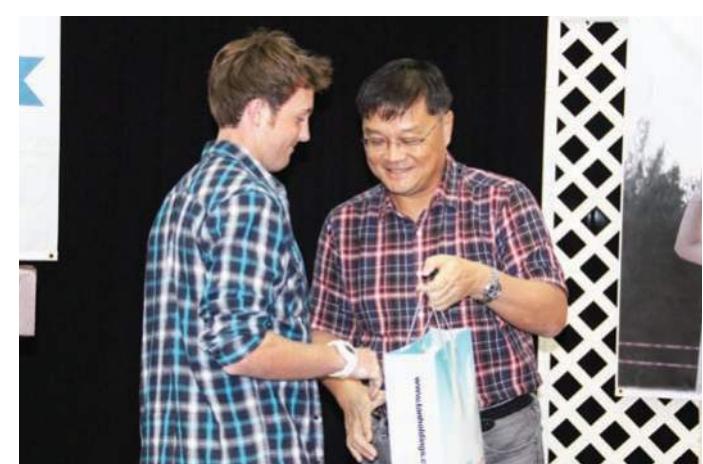
From left, Robbie Schorr, Luther Lizama, Michael Ren, and Clay McCullough-Stearns show their Athletes of the Month certificates.



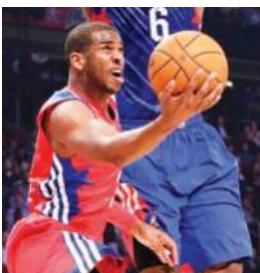
NMASA secretary general Rose Igitol gives Lia Rangamar's certificate to her younger sister Neisuupi.



Master statistician (baseball) Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, standing left, and his fellow CNMI Sports Hall of Famers are introduced before the awards presentation.



Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, right, hands over the prize package to NMASA/TSL Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Year Clay McCullough-Stearns.



**West beats East  
in NBA All-Star  
Game, 143-138**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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**Merrick gets  
his first win  
at home**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## White Chocolate, Chen-Knohl win youth tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

**W**hite Chocolate's Wilton Laniyo and Clay McCullough-Stearns and Chen-Knohl's Charnessa Lizama and Knohlynn Gechig won their respective boys and girls divisions of the 7th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Junior Doubles Tournament held last Saturday and Sunday on the Fiesta Resort & Spa sand courts.

The youth tournament was organized by Northern Mariana Island Volleyball Association.

White Chocolate bested 11 other boys U18 teams, while Chen-Knohl swept 15 girls U18 squads.



From left, girls winners Knohlynn Gechig and Chenny Lizama of Chen-Knohl and boys champs Wilton Laniyo and Clay McCullough-Stearns of White Chocolate pose for a group photo after the conclusion of NMIVA's 7th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Junior Doubles Tournament held this weekend at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

White Chocolate earned a first round bye after pool play and was issued the top seed on the bracket.

Laniyo and McCullough-

Stearns hit the ground running on Sunday and bumped off Zoners, 21-6; Wolf Gang, 21-14; and then eventual runner-up Goofy Goobers, 21-

13, but experienced a hiccup in the finals opening set to the Goofy Goobers, 21-23.

Fortunately for them they had earned a twice-to-beat ad-

vantage coming into the finals and saved face in the deciding face off, 15-12.

Goofy Goobers' Misaki Cramer and Andrew Johnson came

into the elimination round as the third seed and also earned a first round bye.

They sent down Holy Set, 21-19, and third placers Mini-Max, 21-19, before coming up short in the upper bracket semifinals.

Mini-Max's V.J. Jones and Barry Mality ousted the Zoners, 21-10, and Holy Set, 21-8, to advance to the lower bracket semis, where Goofy Goobers prevailed, 21-17.

In the girls division, Lizama and Gechig went through Bump and Grind via forfeit and eventual third place finisher Magalahi, 21-19, in the opening elimination rounds after a day of pool play matches.

Chen-Knohl then advanced past Sassy, 21-17, into the upper bracket semifinals where they defeated runner-up Murasaki, 21-9, in what was their first meeting.

The girls division featured a Guam versus Guam lower bracket semis battles, where Murasaki's Devon Johnson and Chris Iglesias prevailed over Magalahi's Alex McCarroll and Kristin Sapp, 21-17.

In the end, Chen-Knohl

**See WHITE on  
Page 26**



## Mikayla gets first U18 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

 NMASA/TSL Foundation 2012 Female Student Athlete of the Year Mikayla Lopez earned her first U18 singles championship after ruling the round-robin tournament in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

Lopez was undefeated in the girls U18 singles of the White Coconut Classic, completing the sweep and the title win with her 8-2 triumph over Negahr Rast-

guiy yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. The victory came a few days after the Marianas High School student, who lost to Thea Minor in her U18 competition debut in November last year, was named the CNMI's top female student for 2012 during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet.

Besides Rastguiy, Lopez also prevailed over Melody Johnson and Alina Ishikawa in the round-robin U18 singles event. Rastguiy settled for the runner-up honors with her 2-1 record, while Johnson finished third.

**See MIKAYLA on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Pete Lizama, seen here being bumped and getting fouled by Do-

como's Jose Tudela, scored 13 points in CT Kings' 62-61 win over Saipan TV in Division A game in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Friday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

## CT Kings, ICS Shooters win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CT Kings and ICS Shooters bagged their second win in the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League after downing separate opponents in contrasting fashion last Friday night at the Gualo

Rai Basketball Court.

In the first game, the ICS Shooters (2-3) coasted to a 73-62 victory in their Division B duel against JWS (1-3), while in Division

**See CT KINGS on Page 26**

Mikayla Lopez returns to Negahr Rastguiy during their girls U18 singles game in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

## Yankees domination continues as '13 season starts

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

 Defending champion Saipan Steve-dore Northern Yankees are off to a strong start, capping a pair of victories since opening day of the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's 2013 season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Yankees started the show by downing the Tan Holding

Brewers, 12-8, in last Feb. 11's traditional finals rematch and then run-ruled the D-9ers, 13-2, in eight innings last Friday.

Last Wednesday's scheduled pairing between the IT&E Fielders and St. Michael's Medical Response Angels was rescheduled due to heavy rain and the season continued last night at Tan Ko Field with IT&E taking on the Ol'Aces.

**See YANKEES on Page 26**

Saipan Steve-dore Northern Yankees' Bobby Castro delivers a pitch against the Tan Holdings' Brewers during their SML game last Feb. 11 at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND